

Submitter: Lisa Ward

On Behalf Of: Oregon Artists

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

To the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business,
My name is Lisa Ward, I am an Art Director and Production Designer for Film and TV and an artist. I write to your committee to voice my strong support for HB 4124. Throughout the arc of human history, the Arts play a critical role in our collective ability to process the world around us. Particularly in difficult and divisive times, the Arts provide a window into a shared experience of living; a shared humanity. Even under the best circumstances, funding for the Arts in the United States falls far short of the support available to artists and arts organizations in Canada, and Europe. This means that most artists and arts organizations in Oregon walk a fine line to stay afloat. The shutdowns imposed by the Covid pandemic pushed most Arts organizations far beyond that line. Passing HB4124 is critical to keeping Oregon's cultural organizations alive. I urge the committee to vote yes on HB4124.