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January 27, 2025

Representative Nathanson, Chair Representatives Reschke and Walters, Vice-Chairs House Committee on Revenue Oregon Legislature Salem, OR. 97301

RE: HB 3190

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Committee Members,

Thank you for scheduling HB 3190 for a public hearing early this session.

This bill is critical to the pathway forward for many of Oregon's historic properties. As a state, we want to incentivize and stabilize Oregon's founding cultural treasures and we have few tools to do so. We urge your support for HB 3190 to reauthorize Oregon's longtime special assessment for historic properties program.

We represent over 350 members across the state from individual artists to large organizations like the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, from tribal coalitions to historic properties, from traveling civics exhibits to place-based restorations. We know the power of creativity to build communities and collective understanding. Our mission is to make sure that every Oregonian has access to creativity in their communities across our state. We consider historic properties to be among our cultural assets that inspire, heal and build community strength.

Re-establishing this program will strengthen the cultural ecosystem in Oregon. It will align with and help leverage other existing programs like the Main Street Revitalization grant program. Passing HB 3190 will rebuild our toolkit to help stabilize, preserve and reinvent our cultural treasures, many of which are in our downtowns across the state. Additionally, HB 3190 could help spur increased housing production, specifically in the underutilized and vacant upper floors of commercial buildings.

We urge your positive consideration and passage of HB 3190.

Sincerely,

Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon