

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill and to hear it so early in the session.

I am writing today as an arts advocate, and your colleague, to express my strong support for HB 3190 and restarting this important property tax assessment. This is also one of the arts and culture caucus priority bills which many of you know I co-chair along with State Senator Dick Anderson.

This legislation represents an essential step toward preserving Oregon's unique heritage, protecting our historic sites, and investing in the communities that steward these irreplaceable cultural assets.

Historic preservation is not just about safeguarding the past; it is about creating a future where our shared history informs and enriches the lives of all Oregonians. Across the state, historic sites and structures tell the stories of those who came before us and the struggles and triumphs that define our communities. Whether it is the architecture of early Oregon settlers, the sites of significant social movements, or Indigenous landmarks that connect us to Oregon's first stewards, these places have shaped who we are. They are also quite often beautiful, lovely, and unique buildings that we either love to visit or use or define a community or a part of a town or neighborhood in a larger city.

HB 3190 not only protects these treasures but also provides tangible economic and social benefits. Historic preservation generates jobs, boosts tourism, and supports local economies. Studies show that communities that invest in their heritage attract more visitors and create opportunities for small businesses. Moreover, preservation efforts contribute to environmental sustainability by repurposing existing structures and reducing the need for new construction.

As we face ongoing challenges in housing, economic recovery, and cultural preservation, this bill includes provisions that align with broader state goals. Projects like these we are supporting remind us of the resilience and ingenuity that have long defined Oregon.

I urge the committee to pass this bill and re-start this program and join me in affirming that preserving our history is an investment in our future. Together, we can ensure that the stories embedded in Oregon's landscapes and architecture remain vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you,

Representative Rob Nosse



House District 42

