

Submitter: Charles Noble  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Symphony Association  
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small  
Business, and Trade  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3191

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Committee Members:

I am the Assistant principal violist of the Oregon Symphony, a position I have held for 29 years. I am also Co-chair of the Oregon Symphony Players Association and a Musician Director on the Oregon Symphony Association Board of Directors.

I am writing in support of HB3189, which raises the grant budget of the Oregon Arts Commission. As an Oregonian, I was disappointed to learn that Oregon ranks 39th in arts funding. Arts are not just a central tenet of our state's cultural identity, they are a key driver of our economy. We must safeguard these institutions through proper investment at the state level. In my 29 years with the orchestra our level of state funding has always been below that of our peer organizations (Tier One - the highest level orchestras) around the country. With arts funding potentially under threat at all levels of our government, having the state step up its funding now is more important than ever.

Furthermore, I hope that the legislature will repeat last year's funding for Oregon's six major arts organizations. These institutions are anchors of our cultural community and are vital to the arts ecosystem and quality of life in our state.

Thank you for prioritizing the arts in this legislative session.

Regards,