



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 8, 2024

Dear Esteemed Members of the Cultural Resources Economic Fund Review Panel,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Columbia River Maritime Museum's (CRMM) Mariners Hall project, currently under review for Phase Two of the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF). As the State Representative for District 32, I have had the pleasure of visiting the museum and discussing the transformative potential of Mariners Hall with Executive Director Bruce Jones.

The Mariners Hall project stands out for several compelling reasons:

1. **Educational Opportunities:** Mariners Hall will significantly expand educational programs for youth in Northwest Oregon. The interactive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) exhibits will spark curiosity and foster a deeper understanding of maritime history among our young learners.
2. **Preservation of Maritime Heritage:** This project is a monumental step forward in preserving and showcasing Oregon's rich maritime history. The modernization and expansion initiatives will create a more engaging and accessible visitor experience, highlighting the cultural and historical significance of the maritime culture of coastal Indigenous people.
3. **Economic Impact:** The development of a world-class cultural institution like Mariners Hall will have a tremendous economic benefit for Northwest Oregon. It will attract visitors from afar, boosting local businesses such as shops, restaurants, and lodging facilities. This influx of tourism will be a significant driver of economic growth in our community.
4. **Community and Visitor Engagement:** The Mariners Hall project will transform CRMM into an integrated campus environment with thoughtfully planned landscaping, wayfinding, and outdoor spaces. The new exhibition and education hall, along with updated and new exhibits, will nearly double CRMM's programming capacity, enhancing the overall visitor experience.



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5. **Project Viability and Planning:** The project is on track to break ground in October 2024 and open in Fall 2026. CRMM has already raised over 80% of the \$30 million goal, demonstrating strong financial planning and community support. The museum's collaborative approach to planning and design ensures the best possible value and impact.

In summary, the Mariners Hall project is a visionary initiative that will enrich our educational landscape, preserve our cultural heritage, and drive economic growth in Northwest Oregon. I wholeheartedly support CRMM's application for State funding and encourage the CREF Review Panel to approve this exemplary project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Cyrus Javadi
State of Oregon House of Representatives