



Date: 2-16-25

To: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

From: Dave Winterling, Executive Director, Mt Hood Cultural Center and Museum

Re: HB3191

To the Members of the Committee,

The Mt Hood Cultural Center and Museum is located in the Village of Government Camp, Clackamas County, Oregon. Our facility is included within the scope of the proposed CREF funds for the 2025-2027 biennium budget (HB3191).

**Background:**

- MHCCM was organized and granted 501(c)(3) status in 1998.
- Our founding members wished to find a place to preserve and showcase the history and artifacts of the Mount Hood area, and the communities which developed around our busy outdoor-focused environment.
- In 2001, Clackamas County helped us secure a former bed and breakfast lodge, which was remodeled to become the ADA-accessible museum and community center of today.

**Our need:**

- Over time, given our success, we have outgrown our facility - both for preserving and showcasing local history and as a vibrant and sorely needed community space.
- We knew expansion was necessary in order to fulfill our mission, so pursued planning for expansion. A three-phase expansion plan was developed and fund raising began in 2018.
- The COVID pandemic was a significant disruption – MHCCM was forced to close to the public, grant funding dried up, Clackamas County Visitor Center funding was cancelled. Operating expenses continued with little income. We were fortunate to survive and was one of the few Oregon museums which remained open to the public as much as was allowed.
- Through all of this, our need for expansion has only become more critical. We have continued to plan and now have up-to-date architectural and construction plans for Phase 1 – the expansion of our archives and building structure enhancement. This is the necessary first step as the archive is a basement facility and foundation upon which our other two phases will be supported.

**Our request:**

- The funds requested for MHCCM within HB3191 are an essential component to get started on Phase 1 of our badly needed expansion plan.
- Your consideration and approval of HB3191 will be an immense help to ensure that our Museum can continue to properly preserve and showcase our local history, and as a community space with the capacity to support the rapidly growing Village of Government Camp.

Respectfully,

Dave Winterling  
Executive Director  
Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum

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