



February 16, 2025

Rep Nguyen, Chair

Reps Diehl and Isadore, Vice-Chairs

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade

Oregon Legislature

Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT HB 3191; and the “Arts & Culture” package

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

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to reimagine and transform their communities through the preservation and reuse of historic and cultural places. Our mission is to provide a vibrant and equitable Oregon where historic preservation and reuse are crucial to solving real problems like investing in our cultural sector's physical spaces so that the arts, culture and heritage sector's work to produce culture leads to the health, enjoyment and joy for our collective lives. By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote much of what makes Oregon unique.

We enthusiastically **support HB 3191** which would directly invest much-needed capital into 14 diverse cultural projects through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF). Within this group of pre-vetted, shovel-ready projects, there are many that invest in their existing and historic venues. The restoration, preservation, reuse or revisioning of these unique places throughout Oregon is critical at this time. Our organization specifically wants to raise awareness about historic theaters who serve as anchors and valuable third places for so many communities. We've been working to bolster historic preservation and historic theaters for over a decade now, mainly through our Most Endangered Places program which provides technical assistance and support for these community assets. Restore Oregon supports both the historic Elsinore Theatre in Salem and the Orpheum Theatre in Baker City

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support of HB 3191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Possert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Possert

Executive Director