

Chair Nguyen Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Representative Bobby Levy, and I am honored to represent House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties. Today, I am testifying in strong support of HB 3191, particularly the provision allocating \$300,000 to the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center in Wallowa County.

The Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center stands as a vital institution preserving the often-overlooked history of Oregon's early Black logging communities. Maxville was once a thriving but segregated logging town, where Black and white loggers lived and worked side by side in the remote forests of Wallowa County. The stories of those families, their perseverance, and their contributions to our state's timber industry are an essential part of Oregon's history—one that deserves to be preserved and shared for generations to come.

This funding will provide critical support to the Heritage Center's mission, allowing it to expand educational programs, improve preservation efforts, and enhance community engagement. The Center serves as an economic and cultural asset in Wallowa County, bringing in visitors, researchers, and students from across the state to learn about the diverse and rich history of rural Oregon. By investing in the Maxville Heritage Center, we are not only preserving history—we are fostering tourism, education, and economic development in an underserved region of our state.

I urge this committee to support HB 3191 and ensure that the Maxville Heritage Center receives the resources it needs to continue its important work. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully ask for your support of this investment in Oregon's rural history.

Bobby Levy