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February 14, 2025

Representative Nguyen, Chair  
Representatives Diehl and Isadore, Vice-Chairs  
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade  
Oregon Legislature  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: HB 3048**

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

Thank you for scheduling time to consider HB 3048, a bill to complete a study process of the governance structures of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust, for optimum long-term viability and service to Oregonians. We appreciate the support of Business Oregon and the Governor's Office in evaluating the best future form for these critical organizations

We represent over 350 members across the state from individual artist to large organizations, from tribal coalitions to historic properties, from traveling exhibits to place-based restorations. We know the power of creativity to build communities, deepen collective understanding, and generate economic impact. Our mission is to make sure that every Oregonian has access to creativity in their communities across the state because we know that our many cultural and artistic assets will inspire, heal and build community health and strength.

CACO primarily meets its mission by advocating for increased public funding for arts, culture, heritage and humanities. Many if not most of our supporters receive state and public funds through the grants programs of both the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust. These organizations and their boards are a key part of the ecosystem around the creative sector and we want them to be strong and well-positioned now and for the future.

We look forward to a healthy process that will explore the best ways to meet the missions of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust with the least amount of bureaucracy and impediments to the field of providers. As this bill advances, we intend to be good partners in exploring the role of advocacy for these entities given the strong investment Oregonians have directly made through their financial contributions to the Oregon Cultural Trust and/or through the purchase of a cultural license plate.

We appreciate your consideration of HB 3048.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Whitelaw".

Dana Whitelaw  
President  
Cultural Advocacy Coalition