



February 14, 2025

Testimony to and in reference to:  
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade  
**RE: HB 3189, HB3191**

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

On behalf of the board and staff of Oregon Public Broadcasting, we strongly endorse the passage of HB 3189 and HB 3191. House Bill 3189 raises the grants budget of the Oregon Arts Commission to \$10 million, which represents a doubling of available funds to be distributed to arts and culture providers across the state.

For 17 years, Oregon's arts funding has stayed relatively flat and this funding increase will help move Oregon in the top half of the fifty states in terms of state support from our current standing of 39th.

House Bill 3191 presents 14 cultural projects for capital investment through the Cultural Resources Economic Funds (CREF) for a total amount of \$9.3 million. After a statewide call for proposals, these projects were carefully vetted by a peer review committee including experts from the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Since policymakers established CREF, it has provided huge benefits for our state's residents.

OPB benefited from a CREF award during our 2019-20 renovation project. That project proved crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the many new studios allowed our staff to serve the public with critical information while staying safe in separate spaces. The project also helped us expand production of our extensive arts and culture coverage, serving people statewide.

This well-timed infusion of state funds will ensure the resiliency of our arts and culture providers. This bill will help right the ship for organizations that make our state a wonderful place to work, live, and travel.

Thank you for carefully considering these important bills, and for helping support a strong future for the arts and culture sector in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Smolkin".

Rachel Smolkin  
OPB President and CEO