

# Erik Andersson

670 High Street SE

Salem, OR 97301

[eja503@gmail.com](mailto:eja503@gmail.com)

February 18, 2025

Rep. Daniel Nguyen, Chair

Reps. Ed Diehl and Shannon Isadore, Vice-Chairs

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade

Oregon State Legislature

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3191

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

I encourage you to support HB 3191, which will provide \$9.325 million in Cultural Resources Economic Funds (CREF) for fourteen shovel-ready projects from around the state.

I have worked in economic development for nearly 40 years and have seen how cultural capital projects transform communities, providing economic benefit and contributing to residents' quality of life. This slate of projects will benefit communities around Oregon, from Astoria to Baker City and from Ashland to Joseph.

I am a volunteer board member for the historic Elsinore Theatre in Salem, which is included in the slate of projects. The Elsinore delivers entertainment and cultural programming to Mid-Valley residents and visitors alike, providing great economic benefit and attracting significant business activity to Salem's Historic District. The Elsinore will be celebrating its centennial in 2026, and in advance of that milestone the theater is bringing its marquee and Gothic roofline ornamentation back to their original splendor. The CREF funding in HB 3191 will also allow the theater to replace the original 1928 blade sign that was lost to the Columbus Day storm over sixty years ago and will be leveraged by significant contributions from the community.

As a Salem resident, I am also excited to see the City of Salem's Bush House Museum and the B-17 Alliance's Flying Fortress included in the CREF package.

Each one of the fourteen projects included in the CREF slate support valuable efforts – both large and small – to use culture to improve our communities and to bring Oregonians and visitors together to experience places that are special, unique and define who and what we are.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to support the package of capital projects included in HB 3191.

Sincerely,

