

Submitter: Timothy Hecox
On Behalf Of: World Forestry Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Oregon Representatives,

On behalf of my role as Director of Experience & Programs at World Forestry Center, I urge your inclusion of HB 3191 in your overall funding bill (HB 5006) this session to support a statewide slate of 14 art and culture capital projects. These projects are bundled under the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) and have passed through intensive peer review to make it to the point they are proposed for state funding.

World Forestry Center is one of the 14 projects. For us, as with all of these projects, state funding comes only after we have proven community support and staying power for the vision ahead. The creation of our new Experience Center, of which this funding will support, will be a magnet for both Oregonians and tourists to visit and to better understand the connection between forests and people – whether it be through issues like catastrophic wildfire, changing demographics, or climate change, forests are at the heart of our quality of life. We will ultimately raise many more private dollars to fund this project and the state contribution of \$1 m. is a critical endorsement to doing so.

Oregon's arts and culture sector contributes to the state's economy, quality of life, and community well-being. Economic contribution and impact data underscore the sector's role, generating thousands of jobs and driving revenue through employment, tourism, and consumer spending. But its not just economics – our cultural treasures connect us, heal us and inspire us to pay it forward. The state has a legitimate role to help support our communities through these important projects.

We appreciate your consideration. Please include these projects in HB 3191 in your final package.

Tim Hecox
Director of Experience and Programs
World Forestry Center
tnhecox@worldforestry.org
503-312-6054

www.worldforestry.org