

April 3, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for High Desert Museum's Capital Construction Project

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and Committee Members:

I'm pleased to express my strong support for the High Desert Museum's \$2 million Cultural Resource Economic Fund award request included in HB 3191, which is in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The High Desert Museum is a vital educational resource, a regional arts anchor, and a powerful economic driver, and the award will help fund an expansion to benefit all of Central and Eastern Oregon for generations to come.

I spent over 35 years in law enforcement with the last 9 years of my career as Chief of Police in Bend, Oregon. What I learned during my career is that the best crime prevention tool we have is to educate our youth. For 43 years the High Desert Museum has provided an opportunity for the youth of our communities east of the Cascades to experience a unique and fun environment to learn a broad text of knowledge. The High Desert Museum provides exposure to art, culture, history and ecology. Furthermore, this educational experience is a vital support to local schools.

The State of Oregon's investment of \$2 million included in HB3191 or in HB5006 would provide essential funding for the museum to complete an expansion which will serve our fast-growing and dynamic region. I urge you to support this investment in the future of the High Desert Museum and in the expanding educational needs of our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Jordan

Bend, Oregon 97703