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Robert Harrison, chairman
Scott Showalter, president and CEO

February 12, 2019
House Committee on Economic Development
RE: HB 2052, Oregon Cultural Trust
Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Symphony in support of HB 2052, which extends the Cultural Tax Credit for 10 years.

The Oregon Cultural Trust's support of the Oregon Symphony has given us the opportunity to serve about 100,000 Oregonians around the state with live musical performances and hundreds of thousands of Oregonians through live broadcasts, bring music education and concerts to rural communities, work with Oregon artists to create new work and raise the profile of Oregon nationally by appearing at Carnegie Hall.

The Oregon Cultural Trust's support of the Symphony also gave Oregonians the opportunity to experience diverse and vibrant performances by other arts organizations. Our free community performances on the waterfront of the Willamette River in Portland -- attended by 20,000+ and heard around the state by broadcast through our partner All Classical radio -- included not only our orchestra, but also Oregon's own 234th Army Band, Portland Taiko, BRAVO Youth Orchestra, Una Voz Mariachi, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, the Portland Ballet and the Portland Opera.

These music performances, all supported by the Trust, bring Oregonians together -- and today, more than ever, we need these opportunities to share powerful, beautiful, and meaningful experiences. We urge you to extend the tax credit in support art and culture for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Showalter".

Scott Showalter
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503-416-6372