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February 13, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
Representative Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Via email: hecd.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Fahey, and Committee Members:

I'm writing from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) to urge your strong support for extending the sunset deadline for the current-law tax credit which is the foundation of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

You will soon consider HB 2052 which will extend this tax credit for ten years. This credit will provide critical support to OSF and the work of Oregon's entire cultural sector.

Since 2003, OSF has received nearly \$369,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust, funds that have directly supported our productions of new and classic plays — attracting over 100,000 audience members to OSF, Ashland, and the Rogue Valley each year. The Oregon Cultural Trust's investment in OSF has paid dividends many times over and has not only helped put OSF and Ashland on the map as one of the nation's premier destinations for groundbreaking theatre, it has enriched the lives of many thousands of Oregonians and visitors as well as the economic vitality of our communities.

The Cultural Trust has distributed \$23 million since its inception, and is a vital resource for Oregon arts and cultural organizations far beyond OSF. The tax credit at the core of HB 2052 provides almost \$5 million annually for the Cultural Trust, reaching organizations throughout Oregon, with higher per-capita spending (up to \$15 per capita) in rural counties where funding from other sources can be scarce.

On behalf of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and our partners in the arts and cultural sector throughout Oregon, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2052.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Christy', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Christy
Acting Executive Director
Oregon Shakespeare Festival