



cultural advocacy coalition

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March 8, 2021

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee Chair Burdick, Vice Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee:

RE: Testimony on SB 108

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC), representing over 350 arts, culture, heritage and humanities organizations across Oregon, is a non-partisan advocacy group formed to ensure that all Oregonians have the opportunity to access arts and culture in their communities. The primary mission of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition is to increase ongoing public investment in arts, heritage and the humanities, which includes historic preservation.

We are in strong support of SB 108 which will continue to support preservation of Oregon's historic gems. This year has created a new set of challenges for preserving our heritage as we have battled the pandemic, wildfires and the recent historic ice storms. Those natural disasters hit our historic buildings hard. We support an extension of the special assessments for at least ten years, through 2031, to provide time for local governments, preservation advocates and others to update Oregon's approach to current preservation needs and trends.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition is committed to cultural equity and strives to embody values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

*JS May
Board President
Cultural Advocacy Coalition*