



ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE CENTER | PORTLAND, OR

2 FEBRUARY 2022

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Room 160
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

The Architectural Heritage Center (AHC), a program of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation, values access to Oregon's cultural treasures for every resident of Oregon. **We urge the Revenue Committee and the legislature to support HB 4054-1, which extends the sunset for the Historic Property Special Assessment program for two years.**

This is the longest running tax benefit program for historic preservation in the country, first enacted in 1975. The regulation and protection of historic resources, the tax environment in Oregon, and indeed, the very definition of what is "historic" has changed since 1975. Revisiting the program's design with the values of preservation, anti-displacement, equity, and inclusion is critical.

A legislative working group that includes impacted stakeholders is working collaboratively to design a more accessible and inclusive program with the intention of bringing that design back to policymakers for consideration in a future legislative session. We believe it is important for the special assessment program to continue providing its current value while allowing time for collaborative stakeholders to recommend ways of improving it in a future legislative session

The AHC believes that financial incentives are important tools in encouraging the preservation of historic properties. Protecting Oregon's historic gems is a significant part of Oregon's cultural landscape, deserving of the legislature's continued attention.

Thank You,

Denyse C. McGriff
President, Board of Directors

Stephanie Whitlock
Executive Director