

JOHN HUFFMAN
Candidate for House District 59, Republican

The Oregon Cultural Trust is an innovative, statewide private-public partnership raising significant new contributed funds. Each year, the Trust is directed by law to keep 58% of its annual revenues in the Trust endowment, and distribute 42% in direct support of Oregon's arts, heritage and humanities. Donors to the Trust are eligible for an Oregon income tax credit for contributions, after first making a matching gift to one or more of nearly 1,300 cultural nonprofits. Do you support the current Cultural Trust tax credit?

I in fact have Oregon cultural plates on my Toyota pickup and also support retention of the cultural trust tax credit. Early in the 2009 legislative session, in my Ways and Means Subcommittee, I strongly opposed sweeping \$1.8M from the cultural trust to balance the budget. On the record I said that taking those funds was a breach of trust with Oregonians and because of my belief, I voted against including the cultural trust funds in the fund sweep proposal. My plea, however, was ignored. I have been thanked numerous times this past year by constituents for attempting to block the taking of the dedicated trust dollars.

During 2009, \$1.8 million dollars was "swept" by the Legislature from the Cultural Trust for general government purposes to rebalance the state budget. Would you support statutory language that clearly describes the purpose and better protects the donor intent of contributions made for the purpose of growing the Trust endowment?

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