

BILL KENNEMER

Candidate for House District 39, Republican

Recognizing that job creation is a top priority in the current economic condition in Oregon and that investment in the creative arts & culture sector function as a jobs-driver, what policies or practices will you implement to continue to grow jobs in the sector and/or encourage more creative businesses to locate in Oregon?

My first priority as a state representative is to get Oregon back to work. What better way than through a win-win proposition of supporting creative businesses. Tourism is also a powerful economic driver, which must be supported, and historical and cultural tourism is even better! I have a strong record of supporting both the arts and tourism, and when I served in the Oregon Senate, was honored to receive the Tourism Legislator of the Year Award at the Governor's Tourism Conference. Another honor was the American Legislative Council's Thomas Jefferson Award for my work in tourism. As a legislator, I have supported the work of the Oregon Film and Video office and the Oregon Cultural Trust and will continue to do so. As a Clackamas County Commissioner, I was known for my solid support for arts and culture through the Clackamas County Arts Alliance and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. A community cannot be complete without the arts and culture and art truly does build communities.

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?

The Oregon Cultural Trust is one of the best programs in Oregon. It gives citizens an opportunity to support the arts while taking advantage of an important tax break. The success of this public-private partnership has been phenomenal. I do walk my talk and have consistently been a contributor to the Oregon Cultural Trust. It is great to see my tax dollars at work for such worthwhile projects.

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?

A trust is a trust is a trust. That is why I was outraged when the trust was violated during the 2009 legislative session. I spoke in opposition to raiding the trust fund on the floor of the Oregon House of Representatives and would be delighted to work with you to introduce legislation during the 2011 session to prevent this from ever happening again!

In what specific ways have you supported arts and culture – as a private citizen, as a public or private employee, and/or as an elected official?

Glad you asked this question.....we are longstanding and active members of the Clackamas County Historical Society and the Canby Historical Society, supporters of the Milwaukie Historical Society, and a founding member of the End of the Oregon Trail. We have volunteered at numerous events including the Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts. Cherie,

my wife, is a member of the regional steering committee of the Creative Advocacy Network and President of the Clackamas County Arts Alliance Foundation. Last spring when the Clackamas County Heritage Partners were experiencing financial difficulties that caused them to suspend operations at the Museum, we stepped forward and spearheaded a fundraising drive to secure funds to help reopen the Museum. In addition, we are patrons of the arts, attend many of the cultural, musical (such as the Willamette Falls Symphony) and theatre presentations in our area and personally enjoy museums and collecting, especially early Oregon landscapes.