

To Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Re: Passage of House Bill 2460 which would dedicate two percent of all capital construction appropriations to acquisition of works of art.

My name is Arlene Schnitzer and I own and operate the Fountain Gallery of Art in Portland, Oregon. Our urban areas, new and old, need art to lift the spirits of the people who live and work in them, to affirm humanistic values and to individualize the environment. In a culture which too often emphasizes crass or gross values, the need to employ fully the special vision of artists has never been greater.

As Oregonians we pride ourselves on keeping our state vital and progressive. The beautification of buildings is important. During these times when we are encouraging growth in the core areas, and at the same time discouraging use of cars, art in public places enhances the cement and concrete strictness of the structures. Art completes the architecture and creates park like additions to the cityscape. An awareness of this need has been growing since the end of World War II when U.S. citizens began to travel to other parts of the world in increasing numbers. Fresh from experiencing the lift in spirits conveyed by the sculptured fountains and art adorned buildings, they returned home to contemplate the overgrowth of billboards, the barrenness, the sheer inhumanity of the centers and suburbs of our cities. Here in Oregon, business has responded to this need somewhat. But there are certain states and cities such as Hawaii and Seattle where these kinds of bills have been passed and the art placed in public places sings out the progressiveness of those areas.

There is an economic impact of art on our state. There are thousands of artists and their families who have chosen to live here. They spend their money here, buying homes and utilizing the resources of their area. Also, their art brings visitors to the area.

Art is an industry. It is part of the curriculum in all levels of education. It is part of our daily living process. All design originated with art. The schools are turning out thousands of professional artists who have made art their career. To be a viable part of the state's population, their art must be bought by the consumer. And the art consumer is either business or government. From my observation and experience, it is when art has been made part of the structure,