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February 13, 2015

The Honorable Shemia Fagan and House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairwoman Fagan and Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness Committee Members:

As an Oregonian, partial Blazers season ticket holder, and a musician who plays and attends ticketed events, I urge you to oppose HB 2794, legislation that takes unprecedented action to empower the ticket industry and limit my rights to utilize my tickets appropriately.

I enjoy supporting our local sports teams like the Blazers, as well as fellow musicians and other entertainers. However, things come up sometimes, like being sick, family emergencies, travel, etc. that make it impossible for me to utilize all my tickets and I want to be sure they are used and I can continue to afford being a loyal fan.

At times I want to donate a friend or cause through gifting them tickets, or maybe selling a few to offset the cost. Sometimes I need to sell a few tickets without actually having access to the ticket in advance. I also like to buy or trade tickets from other individuals for other live events in the community. This should not be prohibited.

I bought these tickets and paid full-price. I own them and should have the freedom to do these legitimate activities with my own property. If HB 2794 passed, ticket monopolies would take away that right from me.

I agree with the bill's author that consumers are harmed by unscrupulous robotic software that jumps to the front of the digital ticket-buying line, and that deceptive websites should be shut down. However, HB 2794 is a misguided effort to protect consumers and will do nothing but create and support ticket monopolies at the expense of fans. It empowers ticket issuers, including venues and Ticketmaster, to decide whether consumers may resell tickets they have purchased, and whether consumers may purchase tickets from "unauthorized" or non-preferred resellers.

Thank you for helping us support our community teams, entertainers, and nonprofits through maintaining fan freedom by voting NO on HB 2794.

Sincerely,

Steve Wilkinson
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