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July 13, 2020

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, Co-Chair, Legislative Emergency Board
Senate President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair, Legislative Emergency Board
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Coronavirus Relief Fund Distribution for Statewide Business and Cultural Support

Dear Speaker Kotek, President Courtney and Members of the Joint Emergency Board,

On behalf of Travel Portland, the Destination Marketing and Management Organization (DMMO) for the City of Portland, I am writing to urge your support for the allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds to preserve key economic drivers in our state as proposed by Item 2 on the agenda for your July 14th meeting.

The distribution of these funds to support music, cultural and community venues and organizations will be critical to addressing urgent and specific needs as Oregon's communities attempt to recover economically from the severely harmful effects of the pandemic. The July 7, 2020, recommendations of the seven-member legislative work group will go a long way toward preserving large and small cultural institutions and the associated economic impacts and community benefits they generate around the state. In the Portland metropolitan area, the recommended awards for Metro's visitor venues, the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Portland Center Stage, Oregon Ballet Theatre and the grants for independent venues will help ensure that these organizations and facilities may survive. As part of our recovery from the devastating impacts of the coronavirus, these institutions will help restore the creative vitality of Oregon's largest metropolitan area and stabilize our regional economy.

The proposed coronavirus relief funding for statewide business and cultural support is a step in the right direction for the Portland metro region's recovering economy and it will help ensure a quicker return of the revenues, jobs and consumer spending that these assets generate for our communities.

Thank you for supporting the work group's recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jeff Miller
President and CEO
Travel Portland