

Submitter: Michael Thurman

On Behalf Of: Sawdust Theatre

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4040

Our Theatre (Sawdust Theatre in Coquille) has been shut down since January 2000. Our primary source of income to keep it running is our summer season (may - sep), which we have been unable to do because of Covid. Additionally, we have had to cancel requests by local groups (church's, schools, and childrens theatre groups) to use the theatre to put on their own theatrical productions

We are a non-profit community theatre which does not employ anyone, we are all volunteers.

We have done our best to keep our expenses at a minimum during this time frame but it still takes up to \$2000.00 per month to pay utilities, insurance, and other items that have to be paid.

We have been able to get a couple of small grants which have helped with these expenses, but we were unable to get one of the last major grants because we had NO PAID employees.

The only reason that we have not had to close the theatre completely (go out of business altogether) is that a former patron passed away and left the theatre a sizeable donation,

To stay open as a community theatre we need to have support.

Support to cultural organizations (especially the small community theatres) is needed.

Thank you