

My name is Kit Kesey. I am a lifelong resident of Eugene, Oregon, and owner of the McDonald Theatre and operator of the Cuthbert Amphitheater. These are both live music venues in Eugene and represent a significant percentage of the live music attendance in this area.

Navigating through the pandemic has been a challenge and with the Delta surge followed by Omicron, 2022 is off to a very challenging start. Shows, once again, are postponing and cancelling. Expenses for staffing, services and goods have been and continue to be significantly higher during the pandemic. No industry was closed longer or has experienced as long a hardship as the entertainment and events industry. Attendance numbers are still substantially down.

Venues are vital to our communities. We provide jobs, culture, economic activity, and bring vitality to the cities and areas we serve.

We greatly appreciate the support we have received in order to survive and to keep our core staff employed and not lose them to other industries and states. We are still navigating a very difficult path to recovery. Venues are critical to Oregon's economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration in support of House Bill 4040.

Sincerely,

Kit Kesey  
Kesey Enterprises  
Eugene, Oregon