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January 25, 2023

Samantha Siegner Opie
Senior Associate
Oxley & Associates, Inc.
833 SW 11th Ave. Suite 317
Portland, Oregon 97205
541-979-5456 (cell)

Dear Sam Siegner,

As Artistic Directors of Imago Theatre based in Portland, Oregon, we are asking that the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business support HB 2459.

Covid-19 has derailed our organization in many ways. We were shut down for many months and upon our re-opening up to the present we are always in need of finding new ways to sell tickets and to get our facility up and running to balance our budget.

Our mission is to keep the integrity of theatre thriving and booming but that is difficult in this new time. With each show that is to profit or break even - we must now adapt to new measures brought on by Covid-19. For each show that is to be financially viable - we need to hire extra staff (actors and production team) to help ensure in the event of Covid illness we can avoid cancellations. The cost of theatre has increased considerably but the ticket sales have yet to cover these new costs. In addition, the theatre work force has moved on during Covid so new people need to be trained and those that are currently working are in high demand.

Sincerely,

Jerry Mouawad and Carol Triffle
Artistic Directors