

January 27th, 2023

To: The Oregon State House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

Regarding House Bill 2459

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Representatives of the Committee,

I am writing as a constituent and as a career professional in the performing arts in Oregon regarding HB2459. If passed this bill will make a difference not only to the thousands of arts workers across the state, but to many thousands more Oregonians who through experience of the arts will be helped to recover from the ordeal that the pandemic has put us all through.

Our work has, and continues to have, great potential to uplift and encourage people of all walks of life through hard times. This funding would help actualize that potential and help us all continue on the road to recovery from the negative impact felt from the COVID19 pandemic and the other the various disasters of the last few years.

Arts organizations have been hit hard and the recovery for us has been slow as audiences have only gradually begun to return to the theater. We have also been hard-hit by cancellations due to illness and resources that have previously existed that have helped us through financial troubles are not currently accessible.

At Portland Center Stage where I work, painful but necessary cuts to staff and crew positions have made our task much more difficult. In already extremely challenging circumstances, our artists and production staff are producing eloquent, moving, high-quality shows that speak to the issues of our times and that challenge and touch the hearts of audience members in Portland and beyond.

Please help us to continue in that work, and to rebuild and flourish in the years to come.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Bonnie Henderson-Winnie

Wardrobe Supervisor, Portland Center Stage

(971) 227-6687

bonniehw@pcs.org