

Submitter: Andrew Hellenthal  
On Behalf Of: Britt Music and Arts Festival  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

I'm writing in support of HB 2459, the Arts Recovery Fund Bill. As a board member of Britt Music & Arts Festival, I know firsthand how challenging the recovery has been for our arts organizations and venues. Britt is a primary economic driver for our region, our local businesses' health depend on the concert season to keep them afloat.

When the pandemic happened, Oregon arts organizations and businesses were closed by mandate longer than any other state, and were the first to close and the last businesses to open in the state of Oregon. As a result of the shutdown, Oregon Arts/Entertainment businesses lost \$1.6 billion in revenue.

Arts and entertainment are key drivers of restaurant and hotel business, and your support of HB2459 will aid arts organizations and venues like Britt in their recovery. Investment in the arts industry has MORE ECONOMIC STIMULUS potential than any other industry, especially for Jacksonville and the Rogue Valley. Studies have shown that concerts, shows, theatrical events and other arts events spur a great multiplier effect. Tourism, travel, hotels, restaurants, bars, retail, real estate value, tax base, and many other factors are bolstered by a healthy arts economy.

I'm calling on you to support HB 2459 to help our local economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hellenthal  
Britt Board Member  
Councilmember City of Jacksonville