

Submitter: Mont Chris Hubbard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

Good afternoon. My name is Mont Chris Hubbard; I am a professional musician and a member and officer of the Musicians Union Local 99.

The seven venues in the "Major Venue" section of the bill are often referred to as "anchor" organizations, and the jobs that they provide to musicians, actors, dancers, stagehands, makeup artists, carpenters—those jobs are "anchor" jobs for our state's incredible community of artistic professionals. Those jobs, while many of them are part-time, are good-paying, union jobs. Hundreds if not thousands of arts workers in this state depend on those jobs to provide the foundation around which they can build a full-time career in the arts. Those anchor jobs are at risk of drying up; some members of my union have already decided to leave the creative industry for something more stable. And when that happens, when an Oregon musician leaves the industry, Oregon doesn't just lose a musician from one performing group; that musician works for dozens of different organizations in one year; they all lose a worker. That musician doesn't just stop working in the town where they live; they stop touring all across Oregon, they stop bringing world-class art to every corner of the state. That musician might also teach ten or fifteen hours a week in an elementary or high school or college—when that musician leaves the field, all of those students lose a teacher. If we as a state value the arts at all, we must fund the artistic economy so that artistic professionals can continue to survive and thrive. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mont Chris Hubbard