

Submitter: Colin Cortes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

February 9, 2024

Dear Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business:

I write to object to parts of proposed House Bill 4124 (HB 4214).

I object to Portland Center Stage receiving any funding. I have attended and attend plays there; however, because I often disagree with the politics the organization espouses through its choices of productions, how it adapts plays, and through actions such as so-called land acknowledgments, I object to any of tax dollars subsidizing it. I also object to the state funding this and very few other organizations out of many in the Portland metro area alone, never mind in the state, that stage plays and musicals.

Similarly, I object to the Portland Art Museum receiving any funding. Two reasons are that the museum canceled an upcoming planned exhibit of Soviet-era posters shortly before it opened because of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and fear that this event somehow needed to influence showing the exhibit. The second is that two or so years ago the museum announced it was to stage an exhibit with temporary works of art occupying the pedestals of vandalized and toppled statues in the South Park Blocks, which was both in poor taste and implied that the present state of vandalized property was a legitimate state of which the museum could take advantage. The staging of this exhibit implicitly endorsed vandalism. Because I often disagree with the politics the organization espouses through its choices, including through actions such as so-called land acknowledgments, I object to any of tax dollars subsidizing it. Additionally, having raised some \$27 million to build its addition, it's hardly in need of public subsidy.

In short, I object to public subsidy of at least two non-profits that I know to espouse the false and pernicious doctrines of the Progressive or "woke" faction of the left wing.

I urge the committee to delete earmarks for Portland Center Stage and the Portland Art Museum from HB 4214 before the committee would advance it to the legislature at large.

Sincerely,

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