

Submitter: Matthew Tutsky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

My name is Matthew Tutsky, a professional harpist trained at both the Juilliard School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. In 2018, I won the Principal Harp position with the esteemed Portland Opera. However, since the onset of the pandemic, the availability of work opportunities to perform with the Portland Opera has drastically declined due to financial constraints.

As a freelance musician, the Portland Opera has been a significant source of income for me. Moving to Portland specifically for this musical opportunity, which I dedicated years of study to in college, I find it disheartening to witness the potential pause or halt of this organization due to financial difficulties.

The absence of a prestigious opera company in Portland, Oregon, the largest city in the state, would be a profound loss. Such artistic excellence not only enriches our cultural landscape but also serves as a vital source of inspiration for both young and old residents alike.

The impact of this situation extends beyond myself; it affects numerous lives and jeopardizes the continuity of musical excellence in our community. Therefore, I implore action to ensure the survival and flourishing of organizations like the Portland Opera, safeguarding our cultural heritage and enriching the lives of all who call Portland home.