

Submitter: Nancy L Ives
On Behalf Of: Oregon Symphony and beyond
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure: SB1582

At a time when Portland and Oregon are losing their luster in the eyes of many, boosting the health of the Arts economy is a smart move. The vibrant arts scene in both Portland, and throughout the state – in spite of historically low funding to a ridiculous degree — is a real asset to attracting the best and brightest in all fields to our region. You will hear testimony about economic vitality and the like, and that’s all true, but don’t forget that the arts are part of what makes life worth living, and without a healthy Arts scene, our much vaunted quality of life will deteriorate enormously. Things are already cut to the bone, to be honest...Many people stay here in spite of the low pay and precarious situation arts professionals deal with (more here than other places,) but we can’t count on that forever.