

Testimony of Heather Wilton, Director of Programming and Client Services
In Support of House Bill 4024
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 2, 2026



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Metro supports HB 4024 and banning speculative ticketing.

Speculative ticketing is a widespread issue, impacting both venues and Oregonians. It is not uncommon to find tickets to Portland's events for sale on secondary marketplaces before the official on-sale date. In the fall, we saw speculative tickets to the comedian Matteo Lane for sale on secondary sites before tickets went on sale. These tickets were priced at double face value.

We also see tickets for sale on secondary marketplaces in an area we know is unavailable. We saw this for a recent Oregon Symphony performance. We know the section advertised has been blocked off for that show, yet tickets were being sold for \$500; comparable seats were \$90.

We have also seen tickets for sale on secondary marketplaces for cancelled performances. While we cannot know for sure if they are speculative tickets, we know that if the seller had actual tickets, they would have received notice of cancellation and refund for the performance. An example of this is PlayStation – The Concert, originally scheduled for next week. The event was cancelled on October 24, but even today, tickets are being sold on secondary marketplaces.

At Portland's we regularly support patrons who arrive to a performance only to find out their ticket is not valid. Sometimes this is because the broker or reseller sold speculative tickets and was unable to secure actual tickets. In the best case, patrons can purchase a legitimate ticket and try to get a refund for the fraudulent ticket. The worst case is that tickets are not available at the door, or that the patron is not able to afford to purchase a seat twice, and they leave without having experienced the performance.

We don't know how many fraudulent ticket experiences are the result of speculative tickets, but speculative tickets sales are common and the impact to patrons is significant. Reducing this impact by outlawing speculative ticket sales will benefit Oregonians.