



NATIONAL
INDEPENDENT
VENUE
ASSOCIATION



Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and members of the committee,

The National Independent Venue Association or NIVA writes in support of HB 4024. NIVA is the national trade association representing thousands of independent live entertainment venues, festivals, promoters, performing arts centers, and nonprofit stages across the country and dozens in Oregon.

The Fix the Tix Coalition, a broad alliance of live event organizations advocating for a fairer ticketing system, which NIVA leads, also writes in support of HB 4024 today. This coalition includes venues, promoters, performing arts organizations, artist groups, recorded music partners, and the independent ticketing companies who all take on the financial risk to bring live events to communities. Partners include Universal Music Group, the Recording Academy, SAG AFTRA, and more.

Banning fake or speculative tickets is not a fringe or untested idea. Just last week, NIVA was represented by a witness before the U.S. Senate, where the harm caused by speculative ticketing was discussed as part of a broader examination of abusive ticketing practices. This issue is gaining national attention because it reflects a basic consumer protection principle: You should not be allowed to sell something you do not actually have.

In every other consumer marketplace, this kind of practice is not permitted. A car dealer cannot sell you a vehicle they do not own. A hotel cannot take payment for a room that does not exist. Even in highly dynamic markets like travel, lodging, and ticketing for transportation, the seller must possess the product at the time of sale. Live event ticket resale is one of the only industries where a business is currently allowed to take a consumer's money before securing the product being sold, and that gap in regulation is exactly what enables speculative listings to thrive.

Momentum across the country reflects how quickly this issue is picking up speed. Maine and Maryland have already banned speculative ticketing outright. Arkansas, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, and New York have each taken legislative action to limit or regulate speculative listings. Washington DC, Washington state, Delaware, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, California, and Pennsylvania have introduced legislation to prohibit the sale of speculative tickets. And we know additional states will pursue similar measures this session. Across the pond, the United Kingdom already bans speculative listings and requires verifiable seller information.

NIVA has been deeply involved in national efforts. We have testified in Maine, Maryland, Washington DC, Oregon, New York and more on behalf of our members. Oregon now has the opportunity to join a bipartisan national movement toward clarity and fairness in the ticketing marketplace.

Across the music ecosystem, fans, independent venues, major industry organizations, and many ticketing companies agree that selling a ticket that you don't have should not be permitted. This is one of the most basic consumer protection questions in live events. Therefore, we urge you today to swiftly pass HB 4024.