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February 7, 2021

Members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

As the Artistic Director of Portland Revels, celebrating our 27<sup>th</sup> year bringing music, dance, laughter, and light to the Portland metro area, I respectfully ask for your vote to pass HB 4040 which will provide \$50 million dollars in relief for Oregon's arts and culture sector.

The pandemic has had an extraordinarily detrimental effect on the cultural institutions of Oregon, Portland Revels included. Revels has held no live events since December 2019, and has cancelled planned staff expansions and new programming. Without the support of previous state and federal relief funds, those cancellations and cuts would have been much deeper, and it is likely that the Portland Revels would no longer exist as a part of the Oregon cultural landscape.

With the support of those earlier relief funds Portland Revels was able to continue to pay staff and create new on-line programming offered without cost, as we knew our community was also facing economic uncertainty. Creating those freely offered virtual events provided work for many Oregonians, expanding the economic impact of relief packages.

As we move into the third year of the pandemic, we need our Oregon cultural life even more desperately. As the torchbearers of the return of the light, Oregon's arts and cultural organizations hold out hope that beauty, hope, and community have not vanished with the pandemic.

Though Portland Revels has survived 2020 and 2021 thanks to careful management and relief funds, we do not see the clouds lifting for many months. Even assuming that the fade of the Omicron variant is the beginning of a return to live performance, Portland Revels is still budgeting for a 40% drop in earned income in our 2022-23 season. Individual donors, foundations, and other granting organizations are doing what they can to make up the difference, but they simply do not have the resources to fill the enormous financial gaps left in the pandemic's wake.

To provide those much needed resources, I ask for your support of HB 4040 on behalf of the Oregon cultural organizations and artists who depend on it.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Hostetler, Artistic Director

Portland Revels celebrates the seasons through song, dance, and story,  
creating community across generations and cultures.