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January 25, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

As the Artistic Director of Portland Revels, celebrating our 28<sup>th</sup> year bringing music, dance, laughter, and light to the Portland metro area, I respectfully ask for your vote to pass HB 2459 which will provide \$50 million dollars in relief for Oregon's arts and culture sector.

Portland Revels held no live events from December 2019 through June, 2022, and had to cancel planned staff expansions and new programming. Although we are again presenting live events, our earned income for 2022 was only 55% of 2019 totals. Without the continuing support of state relief funds it is inevitable that our cuts and cancellations will continue, and possible that the Portland Revels will no longer exist as a part of the Oregon cultural landscape.

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

As we now attempt to emerge from the pandemic, we need our Oregon cultural life more than ever, and as institutions we need to continue to support Oregon artists. As the torchbearers of the return of the light, Oregon's arts and cultural organizations hold out hope that beauty and financial stability have not been swallowed by COVID19.

Portland Revels survived the shut-down thanks to careful management and relief funds. We do not see the situation improving next year. Even with our return to live performance, Portland Revels is budgeting for a 40% drop in earned income in our 2023 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 2459 on behalf of the Oregon cultural organizations and artists who depend on it.

Sincerely,

Bruce Akpan Hostetler, Artistic Director