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30 January 2023

**Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business**

**RE: Support for HB 2459**

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business:

I am a frequent patron of the arts and frequently attend shows at Portland Center Stage. I am writing to support HB 2459 that will go a long way towards supporting the continued recovery of the performing arts in Oregon. Oregon has experienced some of the longest pandemic-related shutdowns and PCS, along with other arts and culture organizations, continues to be impacted with loss of revenue as performers get sick with COVID-19 and patrons are slow to return to in-person gatherings. Attendance rates for some organizations are less than 59% of what they were before the pandemic. In fact, PCS has recently had to lay off personnel and furlough others to stem the losses in ticket and merchandise sales.

In sum, I urge you to support this timely and important bill to help fund the arts, culture, heritage, and humanities organizations in Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Victor L. Kane, MS, PhD