

January 31, 2022

Bruce Heldt
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To: The members of the Oregon House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business:

I am writing to encourage your support for HB 2459.

As the Donor Relations person for Chamber Music Amici I can attest to the continuing impact of the pandemic on our organization. So far we have survived two years of cancelled concerts and reduced attendance. Only this year has our concert schedule returned to pre-pandemic normalcy. While our donors continue to support us at near their pre-pandemic level, **our concert attendance and ticket sales still have not returned to their pre-pandemic levels.** Surveys of our former subscribers, who are predominantly older, have confirmed that **continuing pandemic concerns are the reason.**

In the short term, this excess of audience capacity has allowed Chamber Music Amici to more strongly pursue its mission to “promote the development of a new generation of music lovers.” We have expanded our \$5 student ticket program to include \$5 tickets to all accompanying family members while also including discount coupons to nearby restaurants to further encourage participation (and thereby also supporting those nearby businesses). Similarly, we have offered free lawn seating at our summer concerts to make attendance by families with younger children more attractive as well as affordable. Unfortunately, both of these programs are not sustainable until our ticket revenues return to previous levels or sponsorships are obtained. **Additional recovery money would enable us to continue these programs until our ticket sales return to their former levels, and would give us time to attract new sponsorships.**



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PS I am a retired business owner who recognizes arts and cultural organizations as important members of the local business community that provide rewarding jobs as well valuable economic and cultural contributions to and investments in our community. They not only provide a valuable service to our community, they make our community more attractive to other business investment. They are invaluable in attracting both employees and small business investment from out of state. In my former business I encouraged and supported involvement by my employees in local arts and cultural organizations as both a contribution to our community and as a valuable business and personal learning experience for my employees. Personally, I am a life-long supporter of arts and cultural organizations through both volunteering and donating. This support continues in my retirement through my part-time work for Chamber Music Amici.