



To: The Ways and Means Committee

Date: May 1, 2023

Hello Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Committee members. I appreciate your time in reviewing my support for the Arts Recovery Fund Bill (HB2459/SB5506).

My name is Kit Kesey, and I am addressing you as a Board Member of the Independent Venue Coalition, the owner of the Historic McDonald Theatre in Eugene Oregon, and president of Kesey Enterprises Inc., which operates both the McDonald Theatre and The Cuthbert Amphitheater.

Kesey Enterprises Inc. has been producing live music events in Eugene for nearly 30 years and is responsible for the majority of the independently produced concerts in the area. Our efforts and contribution to the arts have so many positive impacts for our community both culturally and economically. These efforts would have never survived the pandemic without state and federal support. I will be forever grateful.

Moving forward into post pandemic recovery has been challenging in so many ways and will continue be so. Eugene being a smaller market for the music industry has been passed over by artists in favor of larger markets even more so after the pandemic. Securing event staff in the current employment environment is a constant challenge and one that is becoming far more costly than in years past. Also, there is a continued apprehension among certain demographics in attending live, in person events. In all, these Eugene venues need additional support to fully rebound from the impacts of the pandemic shutdown.

Please consider providing support to live music in Eugene through the Arts Recovery Fund Bill. The continued support will be felt throughout our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kit Kesey
Kesey Enterprises Inc.
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