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February 8, 2024

House Economic Development and Small Business Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

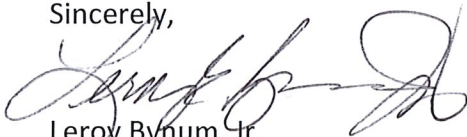
I write to urge your support of the resilience funding and capital investments for the cultural and performing arts organizations included in House Bill 4124. Supporting the recovery and resilience of these organizations will contribute to the ongoing economic recovery of our region and our state.

Portland is one of the world's most innovative urban regions, known for its creativity, community engagement and sustainability. Portland State University's College of the Arts is strategically located in the center of downtown Portland, providing a working laboratory for our faculty and students to achieve cutting-edge work. The College also strengthens Portland's extended cultural and creative community by providing outstanding professional training and education in partnership with the region's working artists, creatives, and cultural institutions.

The future of our urban university is connected to the future and vitality of the cultural and performing arts institutions that we partner with in our region – including the educational opportunities and workforce pathways for our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Leroy Bynum, Jr.
Dean, College of the Arts
Portland State University