

Submitter: Hillary Oseas

On Behalf Of: Portland Opera

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I'm the principal violist of the Portland Opera orchestra, a position I've been proud to hold since 2012. I'm also a core member of the Portland Baroque Orchestra, and I frequently work as a substitute violist in the Oregon Symphony. COVID decimated the concert scene, and audiences are only just now starting to come back. I fear if we don't receive some additional funding, I might lose my jobs. Like most musicians I know, I have several part time jobs. I work really hard to cobble together a living. These arts organizations not only bring joy and beauty to our community, they are also our life's work. Our beloved Portland Opera is in desperate times. The arts are worthy of funding, please help us survive. When people go to concerts, they go to restaurants, they go shopping, they park in garages, they use public spaces. The arts are a vital part of our infrastructure, please give them the funding they deserve.