

Submitter: Janet Dubay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I am writing in support of HB 4124 (2024) to appropriate money through the Oregon Business Development Department to the Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and other important arts organizations in the state.

Not only am I one of the many working musicians in Oregon whose livelihood depends on these organizations, I also see first-hand how these arts & culture businesses generate economic activity for the state and bring much-needed vitality to the downtown Portland area. Musical performances help local restaurants, hotels, florists, hair-dressers, dry-cleaners, and on, and on. Personally, if it weren't for my job at the concert hall, I would not be venturing to downtown Portland or dining out there at all.

These organizations also bring important music education and inspiration to our young people, both directly through their programs and indirectly by virtue of the performers' own educational activity teaching private lessons and group classes to people young and old.

One of the great celebrations of the post-COVID economy is the return of the State's great musical and artistic organizations to normal activity. I can feel the excitement of audiences from where I sit on stage and in the orchestra pit. At the same time, COVID has hit arts organizations hard, and they are clearly still struggling to make up from the losses of the shut-down.

To keep our communities economically vital, our artists and performers employed, our businesses thriving, and our citizens inspired, I urge you to pass HB 4124 for funding to arts organizations.