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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3167

I had a recent incident with online scalping where I was targeted for searching for a local concert. Basically, what I remember is this. It was for Ural Thomas' 80th birthday celebration at Revolution Hall in Portland. I bought a ticket last minute.

I had looked at the Revolution Hall website, as I often do, to get information about tickets. Then, I left and talked with my brother and some friends about going. When we had a plan, I went back online and searched for the show. I clicked a Google search result that appeared to be the Rev Hall website. I browsed the same familiar menus, pulled up tickets for the section I wanted and—here is where I should have clued in that something was wrong—there was a clock ticking down to complete my transaction as well as a message that tickets were actively being purchased and quantities were not guaranteed. So I rushed to grab tickets for my group. Everything visually looked exactly like the real website. Even the domain, which now I wish I had screen captured, was something similar. I completed payment which had some extremely high service fees that had not shown up on the first page. But my time was running out and I completed the purchase.

The tickets were delivered by email from a private email account along with an offer to broker future tickets. The area on the ticket form where it said "price" was written in Russian: "????." So I feel confident that I financially supported Russian bad actors with this purchase.

That is when I reached out to the venue to ask if my ticket was likely to be honored. In total, I had spent almost double what a legitimate ticket purchase would have been.

If I can recover any more specifics, I would happy happy to share at any point.