

Submitter: Benjamin Landsverk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3167

Dear Senators,

Our names are Ben Landsverk and Jennie Baker, and we co-produce an event called The Low Bar Chorale. We would like to voice our support for Measure 3167A.

We are based in Portland, playing shows at venues like Mississippi Studios, Revolution Hall, Alberta Rose, etc. We also travel around Oregon - Salem, Sisters, Hood River, Medford, and the Oregon Coast. Our shows may be small or large.

Ben teaches harmonies to well-known rock and pop songs. We project lyrics behind the band, and the entire audience sings everything. It's amazing and hilarious, and often moving. We're singing songs we all knew from the 1970s on, but are also learning new songs - good for the mind, good to get out there and be part of something so fun. Our events are meant to be accessible to all, and our goal is to create and inspire community.

We deliberately keep our prices low so that more people can afford to attend. The more people who are there, the better we sound - and all voices are welcome. We generally perform three to four shows per month, in the Portland Metro Area and beyond.

As our shows have gained popularity, we've found ourselves (and our audiences) being targeted by ticket resale sites. Their ads and their practices affect our brand.

Their ads appear first on a Google search. The general public may not realize that these are ticket resellers who often raise prices astronomically, and who charge fees that - alone - can exceed the cost of the original ticket. People also don't understand that some ticket resellers are speculative buyers/brokers - and that, even though these hopeful buyers have paid, they may get turned away at the door of the show. Sometimes people travel great distances, bring family, friends, and coworkers. These people deserve to attend, and they may blame us or the venue because they didn't see what was happening at their point of purchase. They just know that they went to the first (or most familiar-sounding) website and did what was indicated.

On our end, we don't know how many people to expect, and that's an issue for us. We see sold out shows that then look less well-attended than they used to. We see people choose not to come because, as far as they know, it's gotten too expensive. Our crowd is being deceived and diverted away from us, and they don't have the

opportunity to make informed decisions.

We need voices in order to make the singing experience as fun as it can be. We want people to be there, literally in the room with us.

We appreciate your time.

Thank you so much -

Ben Landsverk, Artistic Director, Co-Producer

Jennie Baker, Co-Producer

The Low Bar Chorale

www.lowbarchorale.com