



The Old Church Concert Hall

1422 SW 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97201

May 10, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature:

I am writing on behalf of The Old Church Concert Hall (TOC) to express our **strong support for HB 3167**, a much-needed step toward protecting Oregon consumers and the performing arts community from deceptive and predatory ticketing practices.

TOC is a **nonprofit, all-ages community arts venue** located in the heart of Portland's West End. Our mission is to make the arts accessible to all—reflected in our affordable ticket pricing, which ranges between **\$20 and \$60 per concert**, with most averaging **\$25 per ticket**. Unfortunately, our efforts to keep live performance accessible are routinely undermined by third-party resellers who list our events at **grossly inflated prices**—even when tickets remain available on our official website.

Due to the limitations of the **Google Ads Grant for nonprofits**, our venue's ads are never allowed to appear above those of for-profit companies. As a result, when someone searches for an artist performing at TOC, the first links they see often belong to **predatory resellers**. These companies create the false impression that tickets are scarce or sold out, and their listings often appear **five or more places above our official ticketing page**.

We do everything we can to educate our audience—we post advisories on our website and ticketing pages—but the system is stacked against the consumer. Many of our patrons, especially older or less tech-savvy individuals, don't realize they are being directed to illegitimate sites. The result is painful.

One patron, an elderly man who deeply loved the artist performing, paid **\$186** for a ticket that cost **\$20 + \$4.50** through our official outlet. He wrote to us in distress:

"I feel like such a fool... because I love the Bygones so much it breaks my old heart to not be there hearing them tonight. I thought the money went to them. I know this world is becoming more evil by the day, but the fact I can't see a band I love without being ripped-off so badly it sucked my soul out of my body..."

This man was so ashamed, he didn't even attend the concert. And he is not alone—this is a **recurring problem** that causes financial harm to our patrons, reputational harm to our venue, and **no benefit to the artists or nonprofit organizations** that do the work of building community through performance.

We **urgently support HB 3167** because it offers commonsense protections: requiring clear disclosures, regulating deceptive resale practices, and restoring transparency in a market that is currently rife with misinformation. This bill is a vital step in preventing further harm to Oregon's cultural infrastructure and the people who support it.

On behalf of TOC and the thousands of patrons we serve each year, I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Constance Bracewell

Executive Director

The Old Church Concert Hall
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