

Martin Lodish
portland
LD 913

Thank you for taking up this important issue – but please have the final bill address some of these issues as well – the bill as currently written doesn't address many of the issues w third party sellters:

- Third Party Sellers selling available tickets (eg – for a show that is not sold out) at well over face value. They buy search engine slots that fool patrons so that when they google for us the first link is not ours – as the patrons generally think that they are buying from the actual venue directly. This results in
 - oPatrons not buying as the prices as so high – even though they can afford the actual price, but not the inflated one – this makes them look unkindly to the venue/theater/etc – when we often work hard to keep our prices low to make art accessible to all
 - oThe majority of the cost goes to an out-of-town company that has nothing to do w the creation of the art
 - oVenues who rely on relationships, have them tarnished – and we can't communicate w the patrons as we don't know who they are – and when they call (as they assume that they bought the tickets directly from us) to move seats, change dates, etc. – we have no idea who they are and can't help them – often when they arrive we can't scan their ticket, we discover it is fraudulent, or any of a host of other problems.
- These sites who resell – encourage fraudulent activity – third party sellers should make sure that the tickets they are selling are legitimate – by not doing so, they encourage speculators who buy up hot tickets to try to resell at a profit and when they fail to do so, question the charge w their credit card company which results in theaters/venues refunding the money to the credit card company – third party sellers should have the legal responsibility to offset all loss of revenue when this happens

Martin Lodish, Portland Maine