



March 13, 2025

The Honorable Chip Curry and Traci Gere
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Housing and Economic Development
Room 206, Burton M. Cross Building
111 Sewall Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Re: Support LD 913 - Ticket Resale Transferability

Dear Chair Curry, Chair Gere, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Progress, a tech industry association supporting public policies to build a more inclusive society in which all people benefit from technological advances, **I urge you to support LD 913**. This bill would protect consumer choice and competition in the ticketing industry.

Some online ticket marketplaces—like Ticketmaster—enjoy a unique position as the original ticket seller and resale marketplace for live events. Ticketmaster’s position in the market is reinforced by its partnership with Live Nation, an event promoter that works with venues to set the terms of entry and ticket sales. As a result, Ticketmaster is able to restrict how consumers use the tickets they purchase. In some cases, Ticketmaster/Live Nation prohibits the resale of tickets, and in others, they require that tickets only be resold through Ticketmaster’s own ticket resale platform.¹ By some estimates, this unique position has given Ticketmaster control of over 80% of the market for ticketing and live events.²

Ticketmaster’s market power has recently garnered significant attention and even prompted a lawsuit from the Department of Justice.³ LD 913 would help rebalance the ticketing market by increasing consumer choice and promoting competition from ticket resale marketplaces.

¹ *Restrictive Paperless Tickets*, American Antitrust Institute.

https://www.antitrustinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Tickets_paperless_Final.1.17.11.pdf

² U.S. Department of Justice. (2024). *Complaint against Live Nation Entertainment, Inc. and Ticketmaster LLC (Case No. 1:24-cv-3973)*. DOJ. p.3 (The complaint has been brought forth by the United States and a coalition of states, including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia Wisconsin, and Wyoming.) <https://www.justice.gov/atr/media/1353101/dl>

³ *Justice Dept. Is Said to Investigate Ticketmaster’s Parent Company*, New York Times (November 18, 2022).

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/18/technology/live-nation-ticketmaster-investigation-taylor-swift.html>

Ensuring ticket transferability protects consumer choice.

We commend the author for protecting transferability and emphasizing that fans should not be denied entry to an event if the ticket is bought from a reseller under Section 1 (2)(A). Tickets are often only made available by primary sellers for short periods of time, far in advance of the actual event. For fans unable to purchase tickets during that short period or who may not have the schedule flexibility to guarantee they will be able to attend an event far in advance, ticket resale marketplaces provide an alternative option. For fans who can purchase tickets from primary sellers but can no longer attend the event, ticket resale marketplaces allow them to recoup the costs. Polling shows consumers overwhelmingly support the right to transfer or resell their tickets. Over 80% of respondents in a 2021 survey agreed that “if you purchase a ticket to an event, you own it, and rules should require that you have the flexibility to give it away or resell it if you so choose.”⁴

Ticket transferability also encourages competition in the ticketing industry.

Protecting the right to ticket transferability breaks some of the hold that the large primary ticket sellers—chiefly Ticketmaster—have on the industry. Allowing customers to transfer or sell the tickets they have purchased and to choose which platforms to sell them on, creates a more competitive market. Outside of unfair restrictions on ticket transfers, primary ticket sellers have generated recent controversy for other market abuses. The FTC has called out the ticketing industry, and Ticketmaster specifically, for not being transparent about the total price of ticket purchases.⁵ More competition in the ticketing industry would allow customers to shop around for platforms and reward the ones with more transparent pricing models.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge you to support LD 913.**

Sincerely,

Brianna January



Director of State & Local Government Relations, Northeast US

⁴ Press Release: National Poll Shows Americans Want Government to Improve Live Event Ticketing. <https://www.protectticketrights.com/news/80/Press+Release+National+Poll+Shows+Americans+Want+Government+to+Improve+Live+Event+Ticketing+and+Bet>

⁵ 16 CFR Part 464 Trade Regulation Rule on Unfair or Deceptive Fees, Federal Trade Commission (November 9, 2023). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-11-09/pdf/2023-24234.pdf>