

Travis Cyr
Van Buren

Greetings and Thank you Mr. Collings for your efforts. I have spent the better part of the last 20 years driving all around our beautiful state performing original music. From Fort Kent to Old Orchard, from Kingsfield to Lubec, restaurants, breweries, festivals and street dances. The Covid pandemic has robbed all the vital musicians and artists of their careers. 20+ years of practice, establishing contacts, building a reputation, was all gone within a week back in March 2020. I have since struggled to maintain payments to my bank for my car, for my business loans, for our rent and at times for the most basic of groceries. Relying on a little bit of unemployment (first time ever), and federal stimulus checks or applying for grants ..I've struggled, I'm still struggling and I am very concerned about struggling again just to make it through another long winter up north. I know a lot of my peers are in the same boat. If I've learned anything through this pandemic, it's just HOW important music and the arts are to people, we all need it, we all miss it. Mr. Collings introduction of this bill is a hopeful lifeline to see many who truly need it. At such a crucial point, please consider passing this bill to help aid Maine's incredibly strong, creative and vital music and art scene. Thank you very much