



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep Jan Dodge in support of*  
**LD 1566, Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Create and Administer a Fund for Live Entertainment Venue, Performer and Worker and Public Art Recovery Grants.**  
*Before the Joiny Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business*

Good morning, Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. I am Representative Jan Dodge of House District 97 which includes Belfast, Northport and Waldo. I am here to testify in support of **LD 1566, Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Create and Administer a Fund for Live Entertainment Venue, Performer and Worker and Public Art Recovery Grants.**

The impacts live music, entertainment, art and theater have on audiences and on our economy must not be understated. In my own county of Waldo, art creation and consumption account for millions of dollars of revenue and positive economic influence! As a two-term member of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I also acknowledge the foundational positives the arts bring to our society and humanity. The fact that we all seek the visual and performing arts to enrich our experiences with beauty, enhance our stories and events with colorful pageantry and to add a soundtrack as we reflect on life's mysteries and experiences are a testament to the importance of the arts as a necessary part of our human condition!

Whatever your category or genre of choice, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on our ability to fully experience the arts. Our artists, workers and those who practice their craft have had reduced interactions that have reduced incomes.

What are your favorite Maine music and art memories? For me these include my appreciation for impressive lighting techniques at the Maine State Music Theater at Bowdoin, hours of rehearsal at the Grand Auditorium in Ellsworth, Andrew Wyeth inspiration at the Farnsworth in Rockland, Earth Wind and Fire in the Cumberland County Civic Center and anticipating an impending plot twist at a movie theater.

Each of these arts sectors and sports entertainment businesses are the weavers who perpetuate our cultural fabric, traditions and cultural literacy. They are an important segment of Maine's economy.

Please pass LD 1566 to provide relief grants for our arts venues, performers, workers, businesses and organizations. I hope passage will illustrate Maine's commitment to our artists and foster the flow of federal funds to assist our state in preserving these entities.

Thank you. I will try to answer any questions you may have.