

Tricia Hobbs  
Penobscot Theatre Company, Bangor ME

As the Northeastern-most professional regional theatre company, Penobscot Theatre Company serves the greater Bangor community and beyond. The Arts, specifically performance venues, were the first to close and will be the last to reopen. Since closing our doors in March of 2020 we were forced with the difficult decision to furlough the majority of our staff, (8-12 individuals). Some of whom have been able to return to full time thanks to the PPP loans but not all- several are still only at part time or less. Even with PPP assistance, we have not been "made whole". This bill would enable PTC, and arts venues across the state, to be one step closer to serving our communities and providing jobs to our people. On top of full time local staff, we typically employ 50+ independent contractors and artists a year. These individuals are all struggling to make ends meet.