

Carolyn Nishon  
Executive Director, Portland Symphony Orchestra

Due to the coronavirus, and the federal and state limitations on gatherings, the Portland Symphony has lost over one million dollars in earned revenue over the last year, and our operating budget has contracted significantly. This has been an incredibly trying time for Maine performing arts organizations and the performers who create the art itself. Further, many Maine foundations and corporations that previously supported the Portland Symphony are currently unable to sponsor or grant gifts at this time due to their own COVID-19 budgetary concerns, further inhibiting the PSO's ability to operate in a financially viable manner. While managing these challenges, we have also needed to invest in the expensive endeavor of delivering our work to our patrons digitally. In order to continue supporting our mission of enriching the lives of our community through music, state and federal support is critical. This program is necessary, and critical for many artists, organizations, and venues across the state, and approval of this bill would be an indicator that the state values our sector and the benefits and enrichment we bring to our community.

Thank you,