

Cathy Stackpole
Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Many of Maine's Live Entertainment venues, and the artists and cultural workers that provide content, are seasonal, in that we need a good summer to get us through to the next summer. Like droughts in southern Maine, we see the repercussions several years in the future. While we were able to hang on this last summer, we only did 22% of business last year at our retreat and conference center in Saco. Now we are looking at revenue increasing for our summer reservations, but it is still less than half of what we did when we were not effected by COVID. We still don't know if we can put on summer staff this year, trying to conserve funds to get us to 2022. We need the help in thinking about the long game for all of the live entertainment venues and artists. Our auditorium has been silent for 18 months now and was a good source of revenue as well as a place for performing artists. Thank you for your consideration of this bill to provide funds for live entertainment venues, performing artists and cultural workers.