

Colin Winsor
Portland

Senator Glenn Curry, Chair
Representative Tiffany Roberts, Chair
Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

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Colin Winsor
88 Beckett St, Portland, ME

Support for LD 1566, Relating to a fund for Live Entertainment Venues and Performers

The Coronavirus Pandemic has been brutal for Maine performance venues and performers alike, as evidenced by the state's wonderful venues going dark for the past year, forced to close through no fault of their own.

As a professional musician for the past 17 years, I'm well aware that venues keep the lifeblood of the performing arts alive in Maine, and without stages on which we can perform, a great many of us have struggled to stay afloat - much like the venues themselves.

The relationship between performers and venues is truly a symbiotic one; when an artist does well it's good for the venue, and as the venue does well they can bring in more artists. Artists and the stages on which they perform are inherently linked and that relationship is mutually beneficial.

In supporting the live entertainment venues and performers in Maine, we can nurture that relationship. After more than a year of staggering economic losses on all fronts, it is most important to support Maine artists and venues to ensure that the industry can not only return but continue to thrive.

I urge the committee to pass LD 1566, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify.