

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

We write to bring your attention to challenges facing the live entertainment industry and to ask for targeted legislative action as Congress works on additional economic relief legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Live event venues were among the first to close as COVID-19 spread across the country, and they are likely to be among the last to reopen. Concerts and live events may not be possible until a vaccine is readily available to the public, which could be many months away, if not longer. Until that time, live event venues will remain shuttered, leaving employees without jobs and businesses without revenue. The continued closures will also impact the numerous contractors, suppliers, and business partners that support the live entertainment industry in our states.

Each year, thousands of independent venues host millions of events, staffed by hundreds of thousands of employees, and attended by hundreds of millions of concertgoers across all walks of life. These entertainment hubs are important economic multipliers for our local economies, generating millions in tax revenue and providing jobs in our communities. The business generated by this industry also supports countless neighboring businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail.

Unfortunately, even once venues are permitted to reopen, it will take months for the industry to return to usual schedules. Tour artists have an intricate and complicated process of planning, scheduling, and tour routing, making a quick restart near impossible. While necessary to prevent the spread of COVID 19, new capacity limitations and other restrictions could inhibit the live entertainment industry's ability to recover fully for some time. We are concerned that even if these entertainment venues are able to withstand the shutdowns, they will not be economically viable operating at 25 or 50 percent occupancy.


Congress has taken swift action to support the economy, but the programs we have enacted provide little relief to independent venues. Short-term disruption assistance has provided a lifeline for millions of Americans, but businesses that face prolonged closure also need help. Without assistance targeted to their unique situation, venues, artists, and our local communities face an unprecedented crisis. We support providing government funding, tax relief measures, and assistance to manage mortgage, rent, and other debt burdens for mom and pop venues across the country.

These venues support the economies of communities across the country, are a crucial component of the music industry's ecosystem, and serve as incubators and launch pads for the most popular


talent in the world. We can provide a vital lifeline for these iconic venues that are so central to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of so many of our communities. This industry is not going to make it without our help.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you to provide necessary relief to live venue operators across the country.


Sincerely,




John Cornyn
United States Senator




Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator




Thom Tillis
United States Senator




Jon Tester
United States Senator




Kevin Cramer
United States Senator




Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Steve Daines

Steven Daines
United States Senator

/s/

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Susan M Collins

Susan Collins
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

Bill Cassidy
United States Senator

/s/

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator

/s/

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/

Jack Reed
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ _____
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ _____
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ _____
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Cc: Chairman Richard Shelby
Cc: Ranking Member Patrick Leahy