

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Senator Mike Crapo
United States Senate
RE: SAVE OUR STAGES ACT
S.4258 | H.R.7806
SENT VIA EMAIL



Dear Senator Crapo,

I write today urging your support of COVID-19 relief legislation that includes the bipartisan Save Our Stages Act, S. 4258 and H.R. 7806. Doing so will not only #SaveOurStages, but also assist tens of millions of unemployed workers, help small businesses, and uplift our communities.

The previous PPP and other programs do not work for venues and performing arts theatres, which are completely shuttered small businesses in need of long-term support that provides flexibility for the use of funds due to high overhead costs. Driven by the volume of ticket purchases, venues and cultural arts organizations do not have the ability to open at partial capacity. Also, with no work to offer these employees for the foreseeable future, hundreds are left unemployed. Without support from Congress, 90% of independent venues across America say they will close their doors forever.

This will take a toll on our local economy. A Chicago study estimated that \$1 spent at a small venue resulted in \$12 of economic activities for neighboring restaurants, hotels, and retail shops. This is a \$278,640,000 direct annual economic impact in our city. Boise alone has upwards of a dozen venues at risk, and each of these venues serve multiple for- and non-profit organizations. These venues, many of which are in Downtown Boise, were the first to close and will be the last to open.

These venues closing permanently would also impact the entire music economy and ecosystem in Downtown Boise – artists, talent agents, stagehands, security, catering, artist managers, tour bus industry, production, radio/social media/tv/print advertising, record companies, and many others.

We are thankful for the support of so many that are helping to #SaveOurStages, and we are asking you to pass COVID-19 relief legislation that includes the bipartisan Save Our Stages Act. Doing so would ensure that independent venues receive the financial assistance needed to be able to reopen their doors when it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Hensley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jennifer Hensley
Executive Director
Downtown Boise Association