



December 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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 Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Colorado Music Hall of Fame, we are writing in support of National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) and asking you to pass COVID-19 relief legislation that includes the bipartisan Save Our Stages Act and offers additional aid for our music industry. NIVA is comprised of more than 3,000 of the most influential independent music venues and promoters across the U.S, including almost 100 music venues in Colorado alone. These members have joined forces to collectively support each other and advocate to local and federal government to ensure that they have a chance for survival during and following the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a nonprofit organization founded to celebrate our state's music heritage and to champion the future of Colorado music, Colorado Music Hall of Fame recognizes the impact that our independent venues have on our communities, both economically and culturally.

According to a 2019 study conducted by Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado's creative economy was responsible for bringing in \$31.6 billion to our state that year, and employing 191,200 of our state's citizens. Ranking in the top 10 in the U.S. for the number of people performing and creating art, and leading all states for the number of people who attend performing arts events, Colorado deeply values our vibrant music and arts culture.

Yet, between April and July 2020, Colorado's music industry lost 8,327 jobs and \$344.6 million in sales revenue, representing 51% of total employment in the industry statewide and 24% of its annual sales revenue, according to Colorado Creative Industries. These job losses do not just affect musicians and venue owners, but the entire ecosystem of the music industry -- managers, agents, production crew, bartenders, radio/media staff and more. The necessary COVID-19 restrictions that forced closures, cancelled concerts and limited room capacities pose an imminent economic threat to an entire industry, as well as our historic cultural landscape.

Venues were among the first businesses to close and are expected to be the last to reopen, with live concerts and events unlikely to return until late 2021. Even then, new restrictions are anticipated that may delay recovery for years, if the industry recovers at all. NIVA's report estimates that 90% of U.S. music venues will go out of business by 2021 without targeted relief funding.

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We cannot stand by. We implore you to support and pass the Save Our Stages Act, S. 4258, introduced by Cleaver-Williams, and H.R. 7806, introduced by Cornyn-Carper, to provide these businesses, and their employees, a fighting chance.

Colorado Music Hall of Fame and all Colorado music fans are so very proud of our state's cultural fabric that is now threatened, along with the livelihoods of thousands of individual citizens. Please pass legislation and provide our music industry colleagues with relief funding.

Sincerely,

Karen Radman

Executive Director, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Paul Epstein

Co-Chair, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Founder & Owner, Twist & Shout Records, Denver, CO

Scott Tobias

Co-Chair & Treasurer, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

President & CEO, Voice Media Group

JC Ancell

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Associate Director (retired), University Memorial Center/Staff Advisor, CU Program Council, University of Colorado

Robert Blume

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Partner, Gibson Dunn

Kathie Broyles

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Owner, Broyles Creative; Senior Vice President & Creative Director (retired), CBS

Leanna Clark

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

President & CEO, Girls Scouts of Colorado

Jay Elowsky

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

Owner, Pasta Jay's Restaurants

James William Guercio

Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame

President, Caribou Companies



Will Guercio

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Director of Development, Caribou Companies*

Josh Hanfling

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Partner, Sewald Hanfling*

Phil Lobel

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Founder & Chairman, Lobeline Communications*

David McReynolds

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
President, Columbine Health Plan*

Chuck Morris

*Founder, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Chairman Emeritus, AEG Presents Rocky Mountains; Chairman, Music Business Dept., Colorado State University*

David Plati

*Secretary, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Associate Athletic Director/Sports Information, University of Colorado*

Henry Root

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
Partner, Lapidus, Root, Sacharow, LLP*

George Sparks

*Board member, Colorado Music Hall of Fame
President & CEO, Denver Museum of Nature & Science*