



PROVIDENCE
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

May 20, 2025

Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House

Re: House Bill H 6334

220 Weybosset Street

Dear Chairman Abney,

Providence

I am writing to express strong opposition to House Bill H 6334, which proposes the introduction of a ticket tax on venues with seating capacities exceeding 800. As the President and CEO of the Providence Performing Arts Center, Rhode Island's premier performing arts venue, I'm deeply concerned about the implications this legislation would have not only on our theater but also on the cultural and economic landscape of our state.

Rhode Island

No other state in New England imposes such a tax on ticket sales at venues of this size. In an already highly competitive market, this tax would act as a tariff on Rhode Island, further incentivizing promoters and event organizers to choose venues across the border in Connecticut and Massachusetts, states where we already struggle to compete for shows. This loss would not only reduce the number of events hosted at PPAC and other local venues but would also diminish the economic impact that these performances bring to our community.

02903-3783

Tel: 401 421-2997

When shows bypass Rhode Island, it's not just venues like ours that suffer. Local hotels, restaurants, and small businesses lose critical revenue. Fewer shows mean fewer jobs for staff, contractors, and vendors who rely on these events for their livelihood. This proposed tax jeopardizes not just the entertainment industry, but the broader local economy that thrives on live performances.

Fax: 401 421-5767

At PPAC, we pride ourselves on contributing to the vibrant cultural fabric of Providence and Rhode Island as a whole. Introducing a tax that is detrimental to live performance will have a lasting negative impact, affecting local employment, tourism, and the community's access to arts and entertainment.

Website:
www.ppacri.org

I respectfully urge you to reconsider House Bill H 6334, recognizing its potential to stifle growth in our sector and diminish Rhode Island's competitive edge in the live entertainment market. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and share more insights into how this legislation would affect our venue and the local economy.

General Email:
info@ppacri.org

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

J. L. "Lynn" Singleton
President & CEO, Providence Performing Arts Center