



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 29, 2020

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

I am writing in support of the inclusion of direct assistance to the live independent entertainment industry in the next round of federal COVID-19 economic recovery legislation. The RESTART Act (S.3814/H.R. 7481) is the first and only bipartisan legislation to provide relief for small and mid-sized businesses through the rest of the year. In addition, the Save Our Stages Act (S.4258/H.R. 7806) – an industry relief bill for independent music venues, theaters, promoters and more – is another vital piece of legislation to help an important sector of the economy and nightlife. These pieces of legislation are imperative to save the live entertainment industry, which has been particularly devastated by the pandemic, and is in need of public support to ensure its long-term survival.

Live entertainment is an economic engine for many communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, creating thousands of jobs, generating a large amount of tourism, and creating important cultural hubs in our communities. However, the industry has faced many challenges and will continue to do so in the coming months. The live entertainment industry relies on packing large crowds into venues, making them an early victim of social distancing protocols. The industry was among the first to close and will likely be the last to reopen. With already-thin profit margins and the logistical challenges of tour planning, operating at limited capacity is simply not an option. With experts predicting concerts and other live productions will not resume until sometime in 2021, it is imperative that action be taken to protect these spaces from closing.

Because of the pandemic, the live entertainment industry will continue to struggle for a prolonged period of time. We cannot afford to lose these important economic and cultural staples. I urge you to include direct assistance to the live entertainment industry through the RESTART and/or the SOS (Save Our Stages) Act in the next round of federal economic stimulus. Nearly 100 of Pennsylvania's venues, promoters, theatres and more have gathered under the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), with many more that have been devastated by this pandemic, and it is imperative that action is taken today to ensure their survival.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF  
Governor