

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1632

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2021 1:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Skeeter Milller, President/Owner

The County Line Restaurants

Austin, TX

I support this bill. I have owned and operated the County Line Restaurants for over 45 years and during that time I have had a Summer Music Series supporting the San Antonio Food Bank at my San Antonio location that was extremely successful. Since Covid struck, the Music Series has been cancelled causing a substantial loss in revenue in addition to the loss of revenue we were able to provide to the food Bank.

Eddy Patterson, Member

STUBB's Bar-B-Q

Austin, TX

STUBB's Bar-B-Q has experienced devastating financial loss due to the impacts of COVID with mandatory shut-downs of our restaurant and venue operations. Music revenue is the largest components in our overall business model and to have 100% of this be shuttered has been devastating. While the revenue has gone away our expenses have not and with many of our taxes (property, sales tax, etc) remain intact. STUBB's Bar-B-Q has been an iconic pillar in the Austin community for over 20 years. STUBB's Bar-B-Q is considered to be one of the country's top music venues that under normal conditions would host up-to 50 outdoor shows and 180 indoor shows annually. Many of the nations top musical acts who have performed at STUBB's Bar-B-Q include: Wille Nelson, Lady Gaga, Foo Fighters, Keith Urban. STUBB's Bar-B-Q along with other venues need relief to survive. To have 100% of your revenue source removed has forced our operations into survival mode. We hope that with the passing of HB 1632 will provide much needed assistance to STUBB's Bar-B-Q and other venues and allow the artists, community, staff, employees to continuing operating the venues our communitities have come to enjoy and for years to come.

Aaron Lack, President, AFM Local 433

The Austin Federation of Musicians, AFM Local 433

Austin, TX

I believe that this could be a helpful idea for music venues, but for it to help musicians themselves, venues and festivals which benefit from this rebate should be required to enter into contracts with musicians that include a fair, guaranteed wage per person in addition to variable compensation factors like ticket or bar sales. Reputable businesses are already in compliance with this requirement.

Suggested added language:

For all future performances, a music venue or music festival promoter shall enter into written contracts with musical performance artists to conduct musical performances at the venue or festival, as applicable, which shall include compensation to the artist(s) including a guaranteed amount in advance of the performance, that reflects either union scale wage, local fair wage, or state minimum wage for each performer, in addition to any other compensation including a specified percentage of ticket sales for, or other sales during the performance.

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