

Dear Chair Clarkson, Vice Chair Brock, and Members of the Senate Committee,

My name is Sharon Tapper, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Music Managers Forum–US (MMF-US). Established in 1993, MMF-US is the leading trade association for professional artist managers and self-managed artists in the United States. As a 501(c)(6) nonprofit, our mission is to educate, connect, and advocate on behalf of the artist management community, supporting professional development, fostering collaboration, and advancing fair and transparent industry practices.

Today, we represent a nationwide community of more than 15,000 members and affiliates, reflecting the voices of artist managers and self-managed artists across all genres and stages of career development. Our members provide music experiences for Vermont fans and families every day, and I am writing to express our strong support for the passage of H.512, the Honest Resale Ticketing Bill currently under consideration in the Vermont Senate.

Predatory pricing, deceptive practices, and large-scale ticket scalping are increasingly harming fans, artists, and local venues across Vermont. H.512 introduces thoughtful, common sense guardrails to bring transparency and fairness to the secondary ticket marketplace while preserving the ability for fans to resell tickets when plans change. The bill's provisions, including a 10% cap on resale pricing, a ban on speculative ticket listings, requirements for clear disclosure when tickets are resold, and protections against deceptive websites, represent a balanced and measured approach. These reforms will help ensure that consumers are not misled or priced out of live events, while supporting legitimate resale activity.

Across Vermont, tickets frequently sell out within moments, only to reappear on secondary platforms at significantly inflated prices. Fans are often paying multiples of face value, sometimes for tickets that are invalid, duplicated, or never delivered. At the same time, small venues and local businesses are left to manage the fallout, absorbing both financial losses and reputational harm caused by third-party resellers. This issue also has broader economic implications. When tickets are resold at excessive markups, that additional revenue is often funneled out of state, rather than supporting Vermont's venues, workers, and surrounding small businesses. H.512 helps ensure that more of that value remains within local communities.

Importantly, resale price caps are not a novel concept. Similar measures are being advanced across numerous U.S. states and are already standard practice in many countries worldwide. Federal findings, including those from the U.S. Senate's investigation into the ticketing marketplace, have also identified resale caps as an effective tool to curb large-scale speculative reselling while protecting consumers. H.512 represents a meaningful step toward restoring fairness, transparency, and trust in the live event ticketing ecosystem. We join the many Vermont fans, artists, and small businesses who support this legislation and respectfully urge its passage.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting consumers and supporting the live events community.

Sincerely,
Sharon Tapper