



Doug Parsons, President
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March 22, 2020

Senator James Inhofe
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

With all of the current concerns, thank you taking time to consider and, hopefully, act positively upon the following request.

Among the millions of people whose livelihoods have been devastated by the fallout from the COVID 19 virus are thousands of self-employed musicians. As a musical specialty museum we are keenly aware of the ongoing financial struggles and insecurities which professional musicians face – even during the best of times. In their endeavors to enrich our lives, musicians themselves commonly live very modest lifestyles with minimal incomes, no benefits and little assurance that their art is essential.

It is interesting to note, however, that in times such as this, appreciation for the performing arts seems to soar. In the absence of public gatherings, virtual performances and concerts via the internet in recent weeks by unpaid musicians who are simply trying to do their part to lift our country's spirits have become a very important element in keeping the creative soul of our nation alive and vibrant.

As Congress debates the allocation of financial aid for the countless displaced workers in other fields, we request that self-employed professional musicians be included in the discussion and ultimate granting of aid. Now, more than ever, the contributions to the well-being of society being made by musicians should be evident, recognized and financially supported.

And, when the current situation abates and things get back to normal, we further urge you to favor continued support for the arts remembering, when those inevitable discussions ensue, the important contributions which the arts have made in seeing our country through one of the most difficult chapters in its history.

Thanking you for your time and consideration, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DP" followed by a long, sweeping flourish.

Doug Parsons, President
American Banjo Museum
Oklahoma City, OK