

**STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

5 January 2012

The 125th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 125th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 205, “An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption to Incorporated Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations.”

Performing arts organizations are important to the cultural fabric of Maine. However, simply because something is worthwhile and good does not mean it should enjoy tax-free status. Exemptions from the sales tax should be saved for the necessities of life – food, shelter, medicine – as well as for important initiatives meant to foster growth and create good paying jobs in Maine industries, increasing our overall tax base. Performing arts organizations, while important, do not rise to meet this threshold.

Some Legislators have begun to say that we cannot afford tax relief at this point in our State’s history. While I could not disagree with that position more strongly, I look forward to their support of this veto. I do believe that more tax relief is necessary, but that relief must be in the terms of an overall plan. My future tax relief packages offered by my Administration will put money back in the pockets of our seniors and our job creators, ensuring that our tax laws are fair and consistent. We owe the Maine people no less.

For these reasons, I return LD 205 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor