



# Stop Higher Amusement Taxes

THE COALITION TO SAVE JOBS IN THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

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November 6, 2017

The Honorable **First Last**  
Alderman, **XX** Ward  
City Hall  
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 200  
Chicago, IL 60602



Dear Alderman **Name**,



As you are aware, when popular musical acts come to Chicago, especially acts with extended homestands like Lollapalooza, U2 and Bruno Mars, fans travel from throughout the region to stay in Chicago. Hotels get busy, concertgoers flood retail stores, bars and restaurants see a surge in early and late seating.



Recently, City Leaders proposed raising \$15 million by increasing the city's concert amusement tax on Chicago venues by 80% – which if approved, will take the Chicago concert amusement tax to 10.5% – one of the highest in the nation. Even families attending Disney on Ice and Hamilton would be subject to these higher taxes.



Entertainers, like trade show executives, have choices. To be candid, even with a higher tax, performers will still play Chicago, but as history has shown, not as many or often. And that is the issue. Mid-size shows could easily move to more tax-friendly, competing local cities such as Rosemont, Tinley Park or Hoffman Estates. Or worse yet, bypass the Chicago area altogether for a city like Milwaukee, with a new arena.



That would explain why other major markets, such as Seattle, New York, San Francisco, Denver and Washington D.C. all have amusement industry taxes lower than Chicago's "current" tax rate. They understand the value of the visitor dollar. They get it.



According to a recent study, if just three shows decide to bypass Chicago for another market, (depending on the venue) it could result in an economic loss of \$30 million to our city with respect to lost spending, taxes and wages. Just three shows. Those losses would be felt in hotel occupancy, restaurant and bars, retail stores, stadiums, arenas, theaters and, most importantly, jobs.



The impact of this concert amusement tax increase could be far-reaching. Groups representing thousands of Chicago workers, including the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 2, SEIU Local 1, the Illinois Restaurant Association, the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association, the United Center, Wrigley Field, the Wine and Spirits Distributors of Illinois and every major Chicago sports team, including the Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Cubs and White Sox, are united in opposition.



These workers are your constituents. Think of their livelihoods before you vote to raise the concert amusement tax. A vote for this concert amusement tax increase is a vote against Chicago jobs. We respectfully ask you to oppose this measure.



Sincerely,

The Coalition to Save Jobs in the Amusement Industry  
[www.saveamusementjobs.com](http://www.saveamusementjobs.com)

