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Rockville, MD 20852

Leon Seemann, CFRE  
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### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465

### Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

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Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment toward hundreds of arts organizations via MSAC over the past 5 years.

Adventure Theatre MTC (ATMTC) has been a long-term beneficiary of the State of Maryland’s commitment to the Arts through the state funding administered by MSAC. This support is vital to ATMTC’s work to educate and inspire new generations of theater artists and audiences with exceptional theatrical experiences. More specifically, it brings the *benefits* of musical theatre performances and training to Maryland children and students every day: self-confidence, teamwork, creativity, problem solving, and empathy.

Making the POCA distribution to MSAC permanent this year, further, will affirm the State’s commitment to the Arts, add confidence to budget planning of Arts organizations year-to-year, and help maintain the economic benefits that come to Maryland from investment in the Arts.

ATMTC is honored to be a key organization in Montgomery County that provides young people both their first experience of live, professional theatre and high-caliber, technique-based training to future artists.

ATMTC depends on predictable State support for budgeting and planning, including plans for growth; and ATMTC is proud to contribute to the local economy through providing staff salaries, hiring artists, and preparing students and emerging artists for the workforce.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Yours,

Leon Seemann  
Executive Director