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Folk Alliance International is a registered 501c3 ~ (#56-1698333)

January 22, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter confirms that the bearer is attending the 36th annual Folk Alliance International conference February 21-25, 2024, as a registered, unpaid delegate.

Conference Dates: February 21-25, 2024
Location: The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center
1 E Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108

The conference is a networking, professional development, and showcase event for artists, agents, managers, labels, presenters and music industry representatives.

The full schedule is available online at www.folk.org/schedule.

Artists are not remunerated for their performances. All music industry delegates, including performing musicians, are required to be registered to attend the conference and are responsible for their own flights, meals, and accommodation expenses. As such, it is our understanding that the artists do not need to enter the U.S. with P or O visas, but may enter under the Visa Waiver Act, or using a B1 visa, as per 9 FAM 41.31 N8 ("to engage in commercial transactions, which do not involve gainful employment in the United States (such as a merchant who takes orders for goods manufactured abroad;" and to " participate in ... professional, or business conventions, conferences, or seminars") as articulate in *Matter of Hira* (11 I&N Dec. 824 (BIA 1965, 1966))."

Our understanding of the law is supported by the "Meeting between the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Department of State Liaison Committee and the Visa Office of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, October 19, 2017, AGENDA" which states "The Visa Office has advised posts in the past that it may be permissible for an individual or group of performers to appear in a showcase, such as South by Southwest, on a B-1 visa provided the activity is more akin to an audition than a public performance before a paying audience and provided the applicant will not perform in any other capacity outside of the showcasing event." The Folk Alliance International conference is a showcase, such as South by Southwest, and is more akin to an audition than a public performance before a paying audience.

The Folk Alliance International Conference is the world's largest gathering of the Folk music industry and community, attended by over 3,000 delegates representing over 45 countries, including agents, managers, radio DJs, publishers, publicists, and media, as well as festival

and concert presenters (crossing a diverse array of genres including Appalachian, Americana, Blues, Bluegrass, Celtic, Cajun, Indigenous, Latin, Global Roots, Traditional, and Singer-Songwriter).

Folk Alliance International (FAI) is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)3 membership organization with over 3,000 members worldwide. Folk Alliance International's mission is to serve, strengthen, and engage the global folk music community through preservation, presentation, and promotion.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Roe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Roe
Interim Executive Director