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To Whom it May Concern:

This past August, I had the enormous pleasure of directing my play, *Informed Consent*, at GableStage. During my time there, I learned that the South Florida community adores, and feels great ownership of Joe Adler and GableStage. Everyone I spoke to talked rapturously about the plays they'd seen there and the plays coming up that they couldn't wait to see. It's a really vibrant theater community and GableStage is right at the heart of it. I've had over 100 productions of my plays around the country (and overseas), but I was blown away by the quality of the work done there – the level of design realized in that somewhat difficult space, and the challenging work Joe chooses to produce.

I also learned that the community is thrilled about Joe's plans for renovating the Coconut Grove space and continuing his work in a larger, more production-friendly, but still intimate space. It's clearly the next obvious move for this long-lived, extraordinarily successful theater.

So... I'm really disheartened to learn that the Lt. Governor has stepped in to disrupt his plans at this late date, when Joe has secured the space and the finances, and had an architect work up the plans. This is the worst kind of government interference. The idea that a 700 seat space would be preferable to a 300 seat space is the kind of thinking that someone who isn't involved with theater would have. A 700 seat space would require the mounting of big musicals or plays that have a "name" and don't require any real intimacy. A 300 seat space will allow GableStage to grow, while still doing the cutting edge work it's known for.

I hope you'll honor Joe's extraordinary work and reputation, and GableStage's place as one of South Florida's real cultural treasures, and allow the plans to go forward as envisioned. Please contact me if you'd like more of my thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely,



Deborah Zoe Laufer