

The Covid pandemic has decimated small businesses that are truly the fabric of our communities. No expense was spared bailing out the airlines, or giving billions of dollars to drug companies with zero strings attached, or bailing out large corporations with the PPP programs. Precious little was given to support our local businesses and especially our local cultural venues - movie houses, stage theaters, dance and music venues. Most all were COMPLETELY shut down for months on end. The rent, utilities, insurance, taxes didn't shut down however. These cultural gems always lived "on the edge" and Covid has pushed many of them over the edge. Movie theater icons like Portland's Living Room Theater, Cinema 21, the Hollywood Theater, Salem Cinema need the same kind of help that the mega corporations got, and in fact, even more, as they have no real access to capital other than draining the family bank account.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to support HB-3376. if and when the pandemic ends, we need our cities and our state to be a place we still want to live!

Thank you.

Charles Hoover
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