

We are submitting this testimony to ask that you direct the Oregon Business Development Department to develop and implement a program to award grants to operators of movie theaters (especially the small, locally owned theaters) that closed due to COVID-19 public health restrictions.

We want to let you know how much Salem Cinema in Salem, Oregon, means to us and to the Salem community.

Salem Cinema has been our favorite movie theater for over 30 years! Salem Cinema is more than just a theater which offers a wonderful variety of top-class movies. The owner, Loretta Miles, has always been very community oriented and has opened up her theater for fundraisers for many organizations over the years. What a vital role she has played in the Salem community!

With Salem Cinema being close to downtown, it supports other businesses in the downtown area. We, and many others, often eat in one of the downtown restaurants (or other Salem restaurants) before or after attending Salem Cinema.

The total shutdown that Salem Cinema faced over the past year has been devastating for them. They have been very creative in trying to keep revenue coming in so they can pay their monthly expenses, which keep coming in even when they are closed. But it has not been enough, and they need more help in surviving the pandemic as a business.

Salem Cinema faces a long road to recovery. Opening up in a very limited capacity is adding even more expenses for them to cover. They need help, just as the live performance venues got help last year.

We have really missed having Salem Cinema opened this last year! We love Salem Cinema! It's a great place to relax with a movie and friends! We are part of a large and loyal Salem Cinema community. Loretta Miles has been so devoted to the Salem community since 1982 with a lot of hard work to make it such a unique theater that helps so many in Salem. We do not want to lose this wonderful movie theater!

Please consider allowing grants to operators of movie theaters like Salem Cinema with the passage of HB 3376.

Thank you.  
Nancy & Doug Bovee