

Greetings:

I am writing to address the situation with movie theatres in the state of Oregon, which have been shut down due to COVID. I am asking the committee to include SB 3376 in SB 5555, and fund the proposal which would direct Business Oregon to develop and implement a program to award grants to operators of movie theaters.

Why do movie theatres, many of which are small, family owned businesses, need this?

? Unlike most other businesses, movie theaters experienced a total shutdown for nearly a year

? Movie theaters were not included in the \$25 million that went to live performance venues last year

? Movie theaters have largely been overlooked in the relief aid programs

? Movie theaters face a long road to recovery without new film product and with capacity restrictions. Even with greater capacity allowances (50% and above), theaters will still be limited to roughly 25% capacity due to 6' social distancing requirements

? Funds are desperately needed to help address fixed costs incurred while movie theaters were required to be closed

? Movie theaters have incurred costly capital expenses related to re-opening

Very respectfully yours,

Cary Ballew-Renfro