

To the Oregon Senate Ways and Means Committee:

This is in regard to SB 5555.

We are submitting this testimony to ask that you include in the State of Oregon budget the funding of HB 3376, which would award grants to operators of movie theaters (especially the small, locally owned theaters) that closed due to COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Salem Cinema in Salem, Oregon, means a lot to us and to the Salem community. 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.

Please consider allowing grants to operators of movie theaters like Salem Cinema with the funding of HB 3376 in SB 5555.

Thank you.

Nancy & Doug Bovee

Salem, Oregon