

Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Testimony regarding SB 5555  
By Bill Hayden, 1254 Karen Way NW, Salem, OR 97304

I'm testifying in favor of fully funding the movie theater grant program for COVID relief, under HB 3376.

The grant program under HB 3376 A-Engrossed would allow movie theaters to apply for a grant of \$50,000 and up to an additional \$10,000 for each screen in excess of two.

My hope is that struggling small movie theaters such as Salem Cinema could receive such grants to stay afloat until current COVID related use and capacity restrictions are lifted. Salem Cinema is a gem of a theater, bringing the highest quality art house films and documentaries to our community. However, COVID related restrictions have forced the theater to close for most of the past year. They have only recently re-opened at less than 25% capacity.

Movie theaters were not included in the \$25 million that was approved for live performance venues last year and they have been largely overlooked in other COVID relief aid programs, as well.

There has been an outpouring of support from Salem Cinema's loyal movie fans during the past year, but private donations will not be enough to keep the theater financially afloat over the coming months. State government must play a role if theaters such as Salem Cinema are going to survive this pandemic.

I urge the Committee to fully fund the movie theater grant program, provided for under HB 3376 A-Engrossed.