

Dear Representatives on Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

I am writing in support of HB3376 which

Directs Oregon Business Development Department to develop and implement program to award grants to operators of movie theaters closed to public due to public health restrictions related to COVID-19.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for purposes of grant program.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

I am a citizen of Sisters and a frequenter of movie houses where ever I live. The movies are for me the place that takes me out of the here and now and lets me travel, dream, ponder, laugh or get fired up, be it an adventure, science fiction, comedy, historical, political or any other type of film. I have sorely missed the movies this past year plus because although, I can watch films over the internet or on a TV, the visit to the theater is also a social event that sitting at home watching a film can never replace. Our local theater and some I have had the good luck to enjoy in other cities in Oregon are of 'family' quality. You get to know the owners and love the smell of their popcorn with REAL butter as you enter the door to their welcome voices, big smiles and wonderful scents harking from happy childhood memories. My sister and I see movies together. It is one of our favorite things to do as we move within our seventies.

That all said, you can imagine how worried we are that our lovely Sisters Movie House and those all over Oregon are in such dire straights having had no means to create income for these thirteen plus months. We want them to survive such that after this pandemic is history they can again thrive.

Please, do help our many Oregon movie houses. Do agree to pass this to the floor or next committee with your recommendation to pass.

So, appreciate your time to consider my plea.