

My spouse Aaron Reber and I are residents of Salem, Oregon and are strongly in support of this program to award grants to movie theaters. Our local theatre, Salem Cinema, is a true gem in our neighborhood. It showcases lesser-known films that are a delight. It was our favorite place to spend a few hours pre-pandemic. Unlike other businesses, Salem Cinema has been shut down completely for nearly an entire year. We have heard from the owner, Loretta, that movie theatres were sadly not included in the money that went to live performance venues last year. She is also concerned about facing a difficult road to recovery as the film industry in general hasn't been producing many new movies. Plus, even with recent openings and decreasing restrictions, social distancing requirements still mean that theatres won't be operating at the full capacity they need to make a profit and pay their expenses. I hope you will consider supporting this bill. I especially hope that funds are earmarked to help small, independent theatres first. Thank you for your time.