

Regarding HB3376

3/24/21

To whom It may concern,

This written text is in support of House Bill 3376. As a movie theater operator for the last 21 years, we have never had to face a challenge as difficult as Covid19. When we closed in March of 2020 our first thoughts and concerns was the health and safety of our customers and staff. In the following weeks and months, the scope and impact of the pandemic made us wonder when we would once again be able to show movies in our community. The financial impact of being closed for over a year has been difficult as well. Being closed did not stop the all the expenses like rent, mortgages, taxes, insurance, equipment loans, and maintenance.

HB3376 recognizes that movie theaters are an integral part of the neighborhoods and communities that they serve. Movie theaters bring people into the neighborhood and we help support the restaurants, bars, and shops. Movie theaters bring people together and help make great places to live. In our case, the restaurant row on NE 28<sup>th</sup> from Glisan to Stark, has grown into a symbiotic business community with the Laurelhurst Theater. Which in turn has made the area a popular tourist destination and a sought after neighborhood to live.

HB3376 recognizes that movie theaters have been negatively financially impacted. HB3376 offers immediate, necessary financial help to movie theaters.

As we head into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the pandemic, we are encouraged by the progress made to stop the spread of Covid19. We are hopeful that the State passes this bill. HB3376 will help us to reopen by giving us the resources to hire staff, and to pay our bills. It will help us be one step closer to being part of our community again.

Thank you,

Prescott Allen and Woody Wheeler

Laurelhurst Theater

Portland, Oregon