

Local businesses, including local, independent movie theaters, need our assistance during this challenging time. I am writing to support providing grants for movie theaters that were closed down during the pandemic.

Salem Cinema is just such a theater. Locally owned, it has brought great value to our mid-Willamette Valley community since 1982 by providing a wide range of films that would not otherwise be available in this area. We are fortunate to have this cultural center, allowing us to see our world through many different and diverse lenses.

Salem Cinema, like other independent theaters around the state, has lost almost 90% of their revenue in 2020 alone.

- Unlike most other businesses, theaters experienced a total shutdown for nearly a year
- Theaters were not included in the \$25 million that went to live performance venues last year
- Theaters face a long road to recovery without new film product and capacity restrictions. Even with greater capacity allowances (50% and above), theaters will still be limited to roughly 25% capacity due to 6' social distancing requirements
- Funds are needed to help address fixed costs incurred while theaters were required to be closed and capital expenses related to re-opening

As someone who loves our community and the businesses that make up the fabric of that community, I strongly encourage you to support this economic relief for local, independent movie theaters.