

Written Testimony on Behalf of Salem Cinema
HHB 3376 – House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

I would like to add this written testimony on behalf of Salem to be included in the work session directing the Oregon Business Development Department of to implement a program to award grants to movie theaters impacted by the Pandemic.

Salem Cinema is an integral part of the Salem/Keizer community. To me it is my oasis where I can go and see a cross section of films that tell character driven stories from around the world, and not one includes a superhero.

Salem Cinema also provides a much-needed venue where Pacific Northwest filmmaker filmmakers can show their work. I have seen many locally short films, most recently the wonderful Phoenix, Oregon. Very few theaters in this region put locally produced films on their schedule. If we lost independent art house theaters, like Salem Cinema, local filmmakers would have even less opportunities to showcase their work.

Years ago, I volunteered at the Salem Cinema Film festival. I attended a showing of documentary highlighting a Portland musician. Including me there were seven people in the audience. Despite the sparse turnout for this movie I will never forget how excited the director and the producer were that we showed up to see their film. In their opening remarks they expressed how thankful they were to Salem Cinema. They never thought anyone one would see their film until Salem Cinema booked them.

Salem Cinema is an integral part of this community and this state. I encourage this committee to work toward ensuring that theaters like Salem Cinema continue thrive and serve their community.

Sincerely,
Robert Becker
Salem Cinema Supporter