

To Whom it may concern:

Salem Cinema is a local theatre in Salem, OR that is a gem of the community. It is the only theatre around to give access to foreign, art, and indie films. Not just that, it is a local business that is of the type that is irreplaceable, and has been so for many years. It gives character of a kind that you cannot find just anywhere. The owners have been here and really KNOW this community and care about the people here and giving access to many fine films and an experience unlike any other that is intimate and feels personal. They are in a location that truly builds up the area near downtown, and helps to make it upscale, and has helped revitalize this part of town. You can't buy that, and Salem and Oregon owes a debt to businesses like this for the character it brings to our community. It helps make cities like Salem the essence of what they really are, and what can attract people to our fair city and area, and contributes to the livability. I feel if we lose places like Salem Cinema, we will lose opportunities for growth and what can put Oregon on the map for being a state that cares about not just small businesses, but the people that live here. Businesses like this are why Oregon is such a livable state, contributing to culture and personal service. They and other theaters have suffered during this pandemic like no other businesses, because they have not been able to reopen as some other restaurants, etc. have. The small venues have not been included in the \$25 million in funds given to live performance venues. The film industry has been shut down for nearly a year, and there is a long road to recovery for these places. If we lose places like this, it will be a sad day for Oregon and our city, like losing the heart of our state. I, for one, like many others, will have an empty place, if they disappear. Please help by passing this bill. Sincerely, Natalie Schmotzer