

TO: House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

RE: Bill HB 3376

We are writing this in hopes of saving one of Salem's (if not the only) independent film theaters. We are referring to Salem Cinema. It has been a wonderful source of entertainment for us and our family for over 30 years. We cannot imagine life without this wonderful venue which offers the most varied and unique films, recently released in three small, intimate theaters.

The road has not been easy for the owner who had to weather the market crash of 2008-9 just at the time when she had expanded from one theater to three. Finally, regaining her footing financially, the pandemic hit hard and she and other theater owners have been forced to shut down entirely. Theaters were not included in the \$25 million that went to performance venues last year.

Salem Cinema and other theaters in Oregon must have help to stay open. They face a long recovery. Even with greater capacity allowances, theaters will still be limited to roughly 25% capacity due to 6' social distancing requirements. Funding is needed to help address fixed costs incurred while theaters were required to be closed and expenses related to re-opening.

It would be very unfortunate, indeed, if theaters had to close. They provide so much to the public in the way of arts and entertainment. It's hard to imagine a world without them.

We have depended on Salem Cinema for over 30 years to provide a lineup of films and documentaries that are relevant and exciting and that would not be available if it did not survive this pandemic. Please help save one of Salem's jewels.

Sincerely,

Jane Buccola and David Steinberg, Silverton, OR 97381