

To Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield, first of all, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Saturday afternoon. I know there is no place any of us would rather be today!

My name is Drew Kaza and joking aside, I'm here to testify today about a business that operates in just about every county in Oregon, covering the state from Astoria to Burns, Enterprise to Ashland. It is your local movie theater – and whether you realize it or not, the pandemic has made it an endangered species now.

However, there is legislation before you that could very well be the difference between life and death for movie theaters in Oregon. Sponsored by esteemed Ways and Means member, Rep. Nosse, House Bill 3376 would allocate roughly \$9 million to Oregon cinemas. I'm here today to ask for its inclusion for funding under Senate Bill 5555, either via Federal monies or a normal Ways and Means allocation.

My wife and I own and operate a four screen theater called the Sisters Movie House. And we – like most local operators – are more than just movies. In small town Oregon, we're a cultural outpost. In Sisters, we work with churches, artists and support charities such as Discover Your Forest.

But we closed down on March 16th 2020 and have not been open for one day since. For most operators like us, the reality was simple: we are losing a lot of money – an average cash burn of \$10,000 a month. But if we reopened, we would lose even more. So most of us are hanging by a thread.

Unlike many restaurants, we have not been able to access PPP loans, because we don't have enough payroll to qualify.

And unlike other venues or cultural entities like our friends at the Hollywood Theater in Portland or the Sisters Folk Festival, we didn't qualify for grants from the E-Board and Oregon Cultural Trust, which gave out \$25 million last summer to such groups.

We don't begrudge anybody that support and recognize their livelihoods have been hammered too. But up until House Bill 3376 and these hearings, we have been largely ignored.

Whether open or not, all Oregon theaters need the relief outlined in House Bill 3376 to get through the next six months of choppy waters ahead. Again, I ask Ways and Means to look at fully funding this modest request as part of the Federal support coming in – or via your normal means.

To Save Our Screens in Oregon now, we desperately need your help.

Thank you for your time – and I'm happy to answer any questions now or at the end.