

Dear Committee Members,

I am taking the time to write you regarding the BS5555. I am unsure why local movie theaters were left out of the \$25 million that went to live performance venues last year and you now have the opportunity to rectify that over-site.

Some of these small theaters scrape along in ordinary times let alone being forced to close completely for the better part of a year. Even with help it will take some time for these small but important businesses to recover.

Small town theaters like the one in Independence are important employers and gathering places for citizens. Salem Cinema in Salem is one bright spot offering intellectual and emotionally challenging films that can provoke thoughtful conversation. If civilized communities are measured in part by the availability of the arts, the importance of these small outlets cannot be overlooked.

I urge you to please support out communities and support this bill.

Ray Sagner