

Please fund the proposed legislation that directs Business Oregon to develop and implement a program to award grants to operators of movie theaters. Throughout the Pandemic Times, especially hard hit were our local theaters, forced to closed. I have been a patron of Salem Cinema for years. They are an example of an independent small theater that can bring though provoking movies to our local area. Nothing like it exists elsewhere in Salem, or where I live in Dayton. We have nothing like it here in Yamhill County. The movies they can bring forth are often artistic in nature, or heart felt stories of human endeavors, or movies in foreign language/culture, movies about social justice or current issues, and as I said most of it is thought provoking cinema. The big movie chains fail to fill this cultural gap. The little independent theater continues to struggle as capacity limits hardly make it feasible to open the doors given the cost to do so. As counties move up and back on the risk level, these independent theaters keep getting slammed. They were left out of the small entertainment venue covid grant program that was announced recently. Their covid stimulus recovery is lacking. We need independent theaters, like Salem Cinema, to fill a need that fails to be met in any other way in our local area. Please fund this bill and support a program to award grants to operators of movie theaters. Thank you.