

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB 5555. I am a resident of rural western Lane County where the local movie theater, City Lights Cinema, is a vital hub in our small community. The owners (both active local volunteers) are engaged community supporters. They can be relied upon to donate movie passes and gifts to whatever charitable activities come knocking on their door. They are willing and eager to partner with other local organizations for the benefit of area residents. Several years ago they took a chance on re-opening our closed movie theater, moved here from Washington, invested heavily to upgrade City Lights, and have been committed to our community and its success ever since. During the forced shutdown required by the pandemic, they expended capital to retrofit the theater to remove seating in order to increase distance between customers and improve safety for the local population. They offered curbside popcorn to help generate revenue during the closure. They have been creative and responsive to every challenge thrown their way during the past 13 months, but they are in danger of going under. Our local movie theater is beloved in our community. It is where we gather, where we meet for important community conversations, where we celebrate, where we mourn. Please support this needed Covid relief for Oregon movie theaters.

Thank you for all you do in service of Oregonians!