

Hello Committee,

I am a citizen and property owner of Salem, Oregon. This last year has been very difficult for so many people and companies. I want to commend you all on making the tough decisions you have. They may not all have been popular decisions, but the tough ones need to be made, and no one knows the push and pull of finances of this last year better than you all I imagine.

I wanted to write to you about a piece of our culture, as Americans, that has been largely overlooked. Since my son was a child, we have gone out to the movies at least every other weekend. It's been our family tradition and bonding moments for the last two decades since my children were little. Sitting in a theater with my boys, watching the latest movie release while binging on popcorn and soda may seem trifle to some, but that is truly our version of Sunday dinner. We go out for ice cream or a treat after and talk about what we liked or didn't like about the movie. We ask each other which character they would be if they were in the movie, and I would use the plot of the story for parental teachings - what would you do if...

We have not been able to do this for the last year. No, watching movies at home is not the same, it does not give us the bubble of sitting close, phones off, experiencing something together.

It is my understanding that theaters, while being a valuable community asset, have not received much funding, if any, over the last year plus of shutdown. While I do understand that movie theaters are not vital for survival, they are a local business that pays taxes and helps the community flourish. While they are starting to reopen, it is at a very reduced capacity, on top of a year of little to no business at all.

Please make sure to fund theaters as you would any other non-essential business. Clothes stores, coffee shops, the local diner - none of those are necessities either. Theaters also have staff that have suffered a loss just like all others. Please do give aid to all businesses where we are able.

Thank you for your time and all that you do.

Respectfully,

An avid movie goer.