

Honorable Legislators,

I am writing to encourage you to include movie theaters in SB 5555. As you know, movie theaters have been ignored during the shut downs nationwide and have had to rely on their patrons for funding. This is one of the few businesses that have been totally shut down and have received no financial assistance.

Movie theaters provide more than entertainment, they polish our culture, teach our morals and provide some entertainment. Why are they being ignored when you provide funding to keep other businesses alive? No one can figure out why you concentrated all your efforts on saving restaurants in Oregon. Cities and towns across Oregon rushed to save only one business during the pandemic- restaurants. Instead of all the money you spent to “save” them, why didn’t you hire them to feed the hungry? That would have provided them income AND fed hungry people in Oregon. Instead now we have tents, heaters and tables clogging our customer parking spaces. No one has shown us any facts that prove restaurants spread Covid any more than any other businesses that have been allowed to be open.

Please add theaters to your bill and be fair. We love Salem Cinema and would hate to see you ruin it for us by overlooking an important part of our economy, entertainment and culture.

Sincerely,

Carole Smith
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