

Dear Joint Committee,

I am sending this letter in strong support of SB 5555 across the board for all small businesses and in particular in support of Salem Cinema. More than ever we NEED to support venues such as Salem Cinema that for decades has provided our community with a window to the world of international culture, diversity, and inclusion. These films allow us to stretch our imaginations and see far beyond the confines of Salem, and help us to embrace a world view of humankind. Most of us have had more than enough of attitudes that threaten to separate and divide us at a time when we need to come together as a nation determined to embrace all of us. The films Salem Cinema has provided to our community for decades accomplish this, and have helped keep our arts and cultural community in Salem vibrant, informed, and aware, while ALSO providing and stimulating economic growth locally. The loss of Salem Cinema would deliver a HUGE blow to our community, and I urge you to support it so that we DO NOT lose its essential presence in our community. In this case... Please think locally and thereby, you will be acting globally.

Sincerely,  
Gary Westford  
Salem, Oregon