



Theatre Owners of New England

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May 6, 2021

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Written Testimony in Support of LD 1641 (“An Act To Ensure Continued Access to Film and Stage Theaters and Music Venues”)

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of my client, the Theatre Owners of New England (TONE) an organization that represents several movie theatres throughout Maine, we strongly support LD 1641. The bill would provide much-needed financial relief during the most difficult financial situation ever facing the motion picture exhibition industry.

Movie Theatres are struggling. Due to a perfect storm of pandemic shutdown orders, occupancy restrictions, and curtailed supply from the movie studios, movie theatres are struggling to increase revenues. Theatre owners are also dealing with the increase of other mandatory costs such as wages, rents, insurance, real estate taxes and utilities. Theatres currently face the worst economic conditions in the industry’s history through massively declined attendance and limited theatrical releases due to the pandemic.

The bill proposes an economic lifeline to theatres. This proposes grants for venues like movie theaters to compensate for the loss of revenue and profits due to state-ordered closures or restrictions related to COVID-19.

We ask that you pass LD 1641 and provide a lifeline to Maine’s movie theatres and other entertainment venues.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

J. Andrew Cashman, Partner
Preti Flaherty