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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Majority Whip Clyburn,

Thank you for your continued leadership as you negotiate the next coronavirus relief package. I was proud to vote for the updated Heroes Act, which addresses critical needs caused by the ongoing pandemic that will directly benefit millions of our constituents. While I was pleased that the updated Heroes package included relief for many struggling industries including independent music venues and restaurants, I was disappointed that the RESTART Act was omitted and that targeted relief was not included for the struggling movie theater industry.

As you may know, on October 21, 2020, Senators Jeanne Shaheen, Ben Cardin, Chuck Schumer and Chris Coons introduced the HEROES Small Business Lifeline Act, which is modeled after

the proposals in the Heroes 2.0 Act. This comprehensive package of legislative measures would provide over \$370 billion of support to the hardest-hit and most vulnerable small businesses, including minority-owned businesses and very small businesses that have been left behind throughout this pandemic. I was especially interested to learn that this legislative package expands the Save Our Stages Act by increasing the funding amount for Save Our Stages to \$15 billion from \$10 billion, with the extra allocation covering independent movie theaters, which were not covered in the original bill. I believe this is a reasonable step that should also be taken by the House of Representatives.

According to the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), 70% of the theaters in the country could file for bankruptcy or close permanently by the end of the year and more than 70,000 jobs could be lost permanently without additional relief. According to Malco Theatres, which is headquartered in my district, 268 million Americans went to the movies in 2019 alone. If Congress fails to act, I fear that our country's beloved and essential cinemas may be at risk for permanent closure. We must preserve our theaters and the cinematic experience for millions of Americans to enjoy when it is safe to do so again.

I strongly urge you to expand the scope of the Save Our Stages Act to also cover independent movie theaters. This is a common-sense measure with broad support and should be included in any compromise that is reached. The future of the movie industry is in our hands, and it's time we acted accordingly.

During these uncertain times, I appreciate your leadership, and I am grateful to work alongside you in the House of Representatives. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Alex Schnelle at alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov.

As always, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen,
Member of Congress