



The National Association of Theatre Owners applauds the introduction of the Reviving the Economy Sustainably Towards a Recovery in Twenty-twenty (RESTART) Act by Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) and urges its swift enactment. The loan program contemplated in the legislation would provide a critical lifeline to movie theaters and other shuttered businesses.

Movie theaters closed their doors to protect public health at the start of the pandemic, resulting in a complete cessation in our revenues in the face of devastating financial losses as fixed expenses continue to mount. Moreover, as an industry of public gathering places, movie theaters will inevitably face a very challenging recovery. Without the restoration of theaters and other places that depend on people coming together for communal experiences, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has warned, our economy “can’t fully recover, because those other parts of the economy matter.”

Theaters will need additional help from Congress to survive, given our unique difficulties and severe distress. The RESTART Act provides a solution by creating a loan program tailored to the circumstances of shuttered businesses. This proposal will ensure that movie theaters have access to desperately needed capital on terms that reflect the scope and duration of this crisis. Without the relief offered by this program, theaters may be forced to close permanently, an irreparable cultural and economic loss. We urge Congress to act quickly to help save our nation’s beloved motion picture exhibition industry by passing the RESTART Act.

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