



The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2020

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership at this challenging time for our country. As you consider forthcoming COVID-19 relief legislation, we ask you to prioritize assistance for the hardest-hit industries, like our country's beloved movie theaters.

No doubt you are hearing from many, many businesses that need relief. Movie theaters are in dire straits, and we urge you to help businesses that have suffered the steepest revenue drops due to the pandemic. Absent a solution designed for their circumstances, theaters may not survive the impact of the pandemic.

The pandemic has been a devastating financial blow to cinemas. 93% of movie theater companies had over 75% in losses in the second quarter of 2020. If the status quo continues, 69% of small and mid-sized movie theater companies will be forced to file for bankruptcy or to close permanently, and 66% of theater jobs will be lost. Our country cannot afford to lose the social, economic, and cultural value that theaters provide.

The moviegoing experience is central to American life. 268 million people in North America went to the movies last year to laugh, cry, dream, and be moved together. Theaters are great unifiers where our nation's most talented storytellers showcase their cinematic accomplishments. Every aspiring filmmaker, actor, and producer dreams of bringing their art to the silver screen, an irreplaceable experience that represents the pinnacle of filmmaking achievement.

As well as their critical cultural impact, theaters are economic force multipliers. In addition to the 150,000 employees working in cinemas nationwide, the industry supports millions of jobs in movie production and distribution, and countless others in surrounding restaurants and retailers that rely on theaters for foot traffic. Movie theaters are also leaders in employing underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities, senior citizens, and first-time job holders. Cinemas are an essential industry that represent the best that American talent and creativity have to offer. But now we fear for their future.

Theaters need specific relief targeted to their circumstances. We urge you to come together on bipartisan solutions that provide this relief. These solutions would fulfill Congress's intent in helping severely distressed sectors of the economy and ensure that our resources are focused on the industries that need them the most.

Please fight for our country's beloved and essential cinemas by including relief for them in any forthcoming COVID-19 legislation. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

**John Fithian**

President & CEO  
NATO

**Russ Hollander**

National Executive Director  
DGA

**Charles Rivkin**

Chairman & CEO  
MPA

**Thomas Schlamme**

President  
DGA

J.J. Abrams  
Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje  
Agustin Almodóvar  
Pedro Almodóvar  
Wes Anderson  
Judd Apatow  
Jon Avnet  
Sean Baker  
Noah Baumbach  
Michael Bay  
Susanne Bier  
Brad Bird  
Barbara Broccoli  
James Cameron  
Antonio Campos  
Damien Chazelle  
Jon M. Chu  
Sofia Coppola  
Alfonso Cuarón  
Lee Daniels  
Dean Devlin  
Pete Docter  
Clint Eastwood  
Ralph Eggleston  
Roland Emmerich  
Andrew Erwin  
Jon Erwin  
William Eubank  
Ben Falcone  
Paul Feig  
Shana Feste  
Anna Foerster  
Marc Forster  
Scott Frank  
Cary Joji Fukunaga  
Greta Gerwig  
Evan Goldberg  
Paul Greengrass  
Leslie Greif  
Luca Guadagnino  
Catherine Hardwicke

Alma Har'el  
Albert Hughes  
Allen Hughes  
Ron Howard  
Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu  
Barry Jenkins  
Patty Jenkins  
Rian Johnson  
Miranda July  
Nicole Kassell  
Harald Kloser  
Joseph Kosinski  
Jon Landau  
Francis Lawrence  
Mimi Leder  
Ang Lee  
Rob Letterman  
Shawn Levy  
Richard Linklater  
George Lucas  
Chady Eli Mattar  
Melissa McCarthy  
James Mangold  
Michael Mann  
Sam Mendes  
Adam McKay  
Steve McQueen  
Ted Melfi  
Reed Morano  
Jim Morris  
Mark Nielson  
Becky Nieman  
Christopher Nolan  
Jordan Peele  
Todd Phillips  
Ivan Reitman  
Jason Reitman  
Guy Ritchie  
Jonas Rivera  
Jay Roach  
Robert Rodriguez

Seth Rogen  
Joachim Rønning  
Michael R. Roskam  
David O. Russell  
Anthony Russo  
Joe Russo  
Paul Schrader  
Ridley Scott  
Martin Scorsese  
Peter Segal  
M. Night Shyamalan  
Scott C. Silver  
Zack Snyder  
Steven Soderbergh  
Joey Soloway  
Marc Sondheimer  
Steven Spielberg  
Sylvester Stallone  
David E. Talbert  
Betty Thomas  
Emma Thomas  
Liesl Tommy  
Lee Unkrich  
Denis Villeneuve  
Taika Waititi  
James Wan  
Lulu Wang  
Tobias Weber  
D.B. Weiss  
Chris Weitz  
Paul Weitz  
Michael G. Wilson  
Renee Wolfe  
Edgar Wright  
Joe Wright  
Cathy Yan  
David Yates  
Craig Zobel