

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ATR-LitIII-Information](#)
Subject: Paramount Decree
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To Whom It May Concern:

My family has been in the theater industry for over 50 years. We provide a budget-worthy, family-friendly entertainment experience for our conservative small town on our historical one screen. The community relies on us for traditions in their families such as Santa and Easter Bunny and the importance of legacy and community togetherness. We ARE the main street in our small town and exist as one of approximately 11 small town, one Screen movie theaters that have survived the digital transition.

We have lived through the struggles of a limited box office audience, the demands of movie contracts, and the flux of new competing technology for our viewers (ie VHS, DVD, Streaming Services). We have also stepped up to the changing demands of equipment and have kept up to these expensive integrations in order to keep our screen lit. One may argue the importance of one little screen in the big picture of the entertainment industry, however, we are the history and the parameters of how it has grown. Our small one screen still has great audience rapport that appreciate that we are open, and we are rewarded with over 15,000 in attendance each year. That averages each person in our population coming 5 times a year to the movies. We are essential to the box office in rural America, where the next movie screen can be up to an hour and a half drive away!

In many cases, through booking movies, are still treated like we were in 1977, with high demands and long booking for single movies. We are limited to only one movie at a time per contract, so we are unable to share the screen to fulfill some variety for our small audience. In addition with some movie contracts demanding an upward 68% box office charge back it makes our budget friendly small town option for movie going challenging to pay our daily bills, never mind the requirement to hold the newer movies up to 4 weeks-and bore our small audiences with limited variety.

We feel that with the changing digital environment and satellite distribution, there is no reason why there needs to be a limited count on how many "Prints" get released weekly. Let's light the screens and let the demand for best product win the screens and the audiences. The audience which we know well, communicated often of what they want to see however, I am bound by movie company demands. It is essentially a huge chess game of how long I have to wait to be good enough to receive a movie and how much I am willing to pay for it. In combination with the shrinking window of digital release to streaming or DVD, our screen time is limited with they old time booking demands making it unrealistic to even get some movies on our screen while there is still a demand to see it in a movie theater.

The Paramount Decree is important to us because without it, we would cease to exist. The history of small town theaters would eventually dwindle, and this wave would carry into the overall box office because nobody would want to travel over a hour and a half in most rural areas just to see a movie. Why do that when they can wait a mere 4 weeks to see it on their television/devices?



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