

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ATR-LitIII-Information](#)
Subject: Paramount Consent Decrees
Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018 1:34:28 PM

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am on [REDACTED] for the Fowler Theatre in Fowler, Indiana. We are a one-screen movie theatre that solely operates by community volunteers. Our history is rich; we opened in 1940s and the building was traded back and forth between many owners over decades. In 2001, the theatre shut down because of lack of funds and there was even a looming threat of the building being demolished. However, a group of locals formed what is now the Prairie Preservation Guild and saved it. After major renovations that transformed the theatre into an homage of its 1940s art deco style, we won the esteemed Cook Cup, which is awarded to the best renovation in the state. We play movies only one showing a night on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Sometimes, when required by the movie studios, we have an early premiere on Thursday.

The movie theatre is the only one in our entire county, which is small and mostly consists of farmland. We are a staple of the community not only because we're the only one, but because we have kept our admission and concession prices low. We serve many low-income families and the theatre is the only way many people can see movies. We pride ourselves on having forged relationships with other businesses in town and support each other in creating the best, most affordable forms of entertainment we can.

It is a challenge to keep the theatre open. Because of our low prices and huge loans from the renovation, we do struggle with general upkeep and a few years ago we finally had to raise our ticket prices for the first time in over a decade. In terms of what types of movies we get, we definitely make more of a profit when we get first-run children and family films. Recently, with some of the major studios, they have been unwilling to give us first-run movies unless we agree to their terms, which may include having to run them for 4 weeks (which is too long; after two weeks we stop getting crowds) and if we do not agree to playing them for that long, they might not give us the movie for a few more months (at that point it's nearly out on dvd or on-demand), if at all. If people are anticipating a certain movie, we hate disappointing them by not being able to get it, not to mention all the profit we would be missing out on, but it's almost always out of our hands.

If our theatre were to cease operating, our community would have no access to cinema without driving at least a half hour away, and in that case they would also be paying way higher prices. The past few years have been difficult for us, especially when it comes to being treated unfairly by the movie studios. Our movie booker flat-out told the theatre manager that the studios want to change the rules so that smaller theatres will be run out of

business, which of course was devastating for us to hear.

Thank you for giving us this chance to voice our concerns.

Sincerely,

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