



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NATO URGES CONGRESS TO PASS RESTART ACT TO SAVE LOCAL MOVIE THEATERS

(Washington, D.C. - August 4, 2020) - The National Association of Theatre Owners today called on Congress to pass the RESTART Act (H.R. 7481/S. 3814) as part of the forthcoming relief legislation currently in negotiations. NATO was joined in this call for action by the American Hotel & Lodging Association; American Society of Travel Advisors; International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions; International Franchise Association; International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association; Live Events Coalition; National Independent Talent Organization; National Independent Venue Association; National Restaurant Association; Outdoor Amusement Business Association; PLAY Sports Coalition; Social Sport Industry Association (SSIA); and the Sports Events & Tourism Association.

The stark reality is that without the help of a loan program like the RESTART Act, movie theaters and other businesses that are either completely shuttered or face a future of limited capacity and severe uncertainty may not survive the financial impact of the pandemic. Our members have been left stranded by existing loan programs. While we appreciate the intent behind HEALS Act, the loan programs in the proposal leave out hundreds of thousands of small businesses and mid-sized companies due to employee headcounts and limited eligibility zones.

RESTART will address many of the shortfalls of existing and proposed loan programs and will help theaters remain resilient. Without the assistance of the RESTART Act, we fear that many of our country's beloved theaters could be lost. This would be irreparable damage to the social, cultural, and economic life of our communities. We urge Congress to come together on a solution that addresses the severity of this crisis, and to prevent this economic catastrophe by including RESTART in forthcoming legislation.

The letter [can be viewed here](#).

### ABOUT NATO

The National Association of Theatre Owners is the largest exhibition trade organization in the world, representing more than 35,000 movie screens in all 50 states, and more than 33,000 additional screens in 97 countries worldwide. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., with a second office in Los Angeles, California, NATO represents its members in the heart of the nation's capital as well as the center of the entertainment industry. From these vantage points, NATO helps exhibition influence federal policy-making and work with movie

distributors on all areas of mutual concern, from new technologies to legislation, marketing, and First Amendment issues. [www.natoonline.org](http://www.natoonline.org)

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