

HB - 52411

February 27, 2012

To the members of the Commerce Committee,

I am writing in support of the State bonding money for the Shubert Theater's much needed renovations. The Shubert Theater is a cultural and economic anchor for New Haven, attracting patrons from all over the state and the region to Downtown and supporting local businesses. My restaurant, Claire's Corner Copia, has been open for over thirty-five years at the corner of College and Chapel Street, down the street from the Shubert Theater. I have seen first-hand the impact this organization has had on the neighborhood.

When the Shubert Theater closed its doors in the early 1980s, the result was a downturn for the entire neighborhood. The theater's reopening in 1984 had, and continues to have a very real impact for my restaurant as well as the businesses around us. Dinner business on theater nights is a major contributor to our ability to provide fair wages and health insurance to our 20+ employees.

More than a cultural and historical icon of New Haven, The Shubert Theater is a regional attraction worthy our collective investment. I encourage you to pass the legislation necessary to fund the Shubert's renovations.

Thank you,



Claire Criscuolo, RN

Claire's Corner Copia