



Albany
UPDATE
NEW YORKERS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS

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April 16, 2020

Mr. Eric Gertler, President and CEO
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue – Floor 37
New York, NY 10017

Re: Drive-In Movie Theaters

Dear Mr. Gertler:

We write to express strong support for the pending proposal to allow drive-in theaters to re-open in the State of New York.

At his April 12, 2020 briefing, Gov. Cuomo announced that the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) was reviewing the possibility of letting drive-in movie theaters re-open during the COVID-19 epidemic. Such a move would require that an exception be made to the regulation requiring the closure of all non-essential businesses in the state.

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms is an evangelical Christian advocacy organization. While we have nothing against drive-in movie theaters, our support for this proposal has nothing to do with movies; rather, we believe that the re-opening of drive-in movie theaters would allow churches to rent those theaters for Sunday services. The use of drive-in movie theaters would promote public health by allowing congregations to gather for worship in one place while maintaining social distancing. It would also help the economy. We have previously written to the Governor regarding this proposal, but have not yet received a reply.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance in bringing this proposal to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration.

In His Service,

Rev. Jason J. McGuire
Executive Director

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