

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for the Amherst Cinema Arts Center. Olver secured the funding in the FY08 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations bill. Olver is the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and HUD and worked in the House to secure the funding. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciliation bill. "The Amherst Cinema Arts Center is giving the town and region an economic boost by making Amherst a more vibrant community," Olver said. "We are very grateful to Congressman Olver for his efforts on behalf of the Amherst Cinema Arts Center." "Our center is having a noticeable impact on the region," Johnson said. "About 2,000 patrons a week are coming to the center." "Congressman Olver's announcement is especially wonderful because it helps keep the momentum going for the center." "We also have over \$1 million pending in proposals to foundations and major corporations and to the state." The Amherst Cinema Arts Center presents first-run independent film and the classics 365 days a year. In coming months the center plans to expand offerings in collaboration with area film faculty, museums and libraries. The Amherst Cinema Arts Center is an addition to the historic Amherst Cinema Building, which has been vacant since 1990. The project includes one 186-seat theater and two 46-seat theaters, stadium seating, Dolby sound and a digital projection system.

For additional information about this project, contact:  
Carol M. Johnson, Executive Director  
Amherst Cinema Arts Center, Inc.  
28 Amity Street, Amherst MA 01002  
cjohnson@amherstcinema.org  
cell 413-531-4133 or 970-641-6307 (July 25 - August 5)  
office 413-253-2541 Ext. 6 (after August 5)

For general information about the Amherst Cinema Arts Center, please visit [www.AmherstCinema.org](http://www.AmherstCinema.org)