

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
March 19, 2021

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on HB 3244 to expand the Oregon Production Incentive Fund (OPIF) from \$14 million to \$20 million. Oregon will either be competitive in the booming industry of film, TV, commercials, and other digital media or will remain an ostrich with its head in the sand.

I am a working professional with 21 years in film, commercials, episodic tv, and documentary programming. I've worked full time for Warner Media, 20th Century Fox, Disney, and independent shops that include Electric Entertainment and PBS. I moved to Oregon in 2012. Today I am at risk of having to work in other states due to the lack of projects on the ground. Where is the work? It's very simple: States with robust tax incentives.

This policy would continue to keep the door open for studios to land their projects in Oregon - with the very necessary process - of fostering a branch of the arts that is inclusive of all people. Storytelling remains one of the oldest most successful, most lucrative branches of art. Digital content remains one of the United States exports. Citing stats from Electric Entertainment - one show with four seasons can create 2831 full time jobs, contract 7035 man-days for extras and day players. The film industry currently has over 600 vendors representing every district in Oregon.

Since 2012 I've purchased a home, hired local workers from vast backgrounds, fostered youth participation in film making, and continued throughout a pandemic to hire local artists to participate in local installations in the Cully Neighborhood. I am only one woman, but my relationships with vendors, small businesses, and colleagues matters. My paycheck goes towards my house, taxes, and programs. If I have to work in another state because Oregon is not competitive ... I will. Do I want to? No. I moved here to sow some oats. Cut some cloth. And make art. I am a story teller. An artist. You are at risk of losing an experienced professional with an exceptional track record. By passing this policy you are fostering women in the arts.

So get your head out of the sand. Pass this thing. We'll get back to work and keep Oregon on the map as one of the best places to live and make art.

Please vote YES on HB 3244 to expand OPIF and increase media production jobs and spending in our state.

Best,
Whit Vogel
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