



**Date:** January 27, 2021  
**To:** Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
**From:** Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs  
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association  
**Subject:** Support for Senate Bill 43

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Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee,

Oregon's hospitality industry has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent steps taken to mitigate its impact and spread. Lodging operations were the first to feel the pain as travel was restricted, large gatherings were prohibited and sports teams, conventions and business travel dried up.

Restaurants were shut down, forcing operators to try and survive with takeout and delivery or being creative by turning a restaurant into a grocery store to try and salvage some of the perishable inventory they had on hand when forced to shutter their doors. Employees had to be laid off as sales dwindled.

Many of our favorite places to gather, share a meal or celebrate a special occasion are gone. Others are barely hanging on. If our industry is to recover, we need to not only open back up our indoor dining and allow for people to gather again, but we need to safely and actively bring people back to Oregon to help our economy.

Oregon has enjoyed a long history of hosting film and television production companies. Iconic images such as Haystack Rock, the Painted Hills and the Portland skyline have been a part of films and television shows for decades. From movies like *Paint Your Wagon* to *Goonies*, filmed in Baker City and Astoria respectively, to television shows like *Shrill*, filmed in Portland, to *Top Chef*, filmed around the state, Oregon is a popular and scenic location.

These media companies bring actors and actresses, production crews and public relations personnel with them when they come to film their creations. All of those people stay in lodging, eat at restaurants and shop locally as part of their Oregon experience.

Spending tens of thousands of dollars in lodging accommodations and catering alone for each production, these companies infuse Oregon businesses with needed sales. The economic impact and return on investment for Oregon can be in the millions of dollars for each movie or television series filmed here. In addition, their quality experiences in our state are relayed to others in the industry resulting in additional visits bringing more sales.

Passing SB 43 to extend the sunset for labor rebates and tax credits for qualified and certified film production companies will help Oregon's hospitality industry and our overall economy recover that much faster. The stability for these companies, knowing they have a partner in the State of Oregon, can give them the confidence to continue to return again and again.

The Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association urges you to pass SB 43 for the health of our economy and its employees.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Astley', is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Astley  
Director of Government Affairs, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association