

Senate Finance and Revenue  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

January 26, 2021

Dear Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to **vote YES on SB43** pertaining to labor rebates and tax credits for media production.

My husband and I are actors and stunt performers/coordinators. Additionally I am the current Portland Local President for SAG-AFTRA(The union representing actors, stunts, broadcasters and more). We have worked in the industry off and on for almost 30 years. Our ability to financially thrive is directly linked to the ability to attract work to our area, and the Film Incentive program is the key component to that happening. Because we don't always get enough work we both have to have "backup" jobs most years to make ends meet. That insecurity of income is a problem not only for us but for all of our film industry workers that are in our market. I personally have been working hard (for free) behind the scenes to help grow our economy here and increase work for all. The biggest obstacle is not having enough incentive funding to attract what we need to keep everyone thriving.

My main "Backup Job" is being a personal trainer and instructor at the MAC (Multnomah Athletic Club.) Early 2019 we educated a group of MAC members at a luncheon about our film industry and OPIF. They were thrilled and had no idea that they could get involved through OPIF. That excitement was evident at the last auction in Sept. 2020 when we had a fantastic response during a very challenging year. Additionally many MAC members own businesses throughout the state and we received many comments about how their business was impacted positively by film productions.(especially restaurants, boutique shops and local hotels)

As we move forward in recovering from our COVID situation it will be critical to our economy to get our tourism and restaurants back up to speed and a thriving production industry can and will help that too. The impact a production has can last for years, I currently live in St. Helens, OR and the economic impact that the film Halloweentown still has on this city 20 plus years later is astonishing and something we need to replicate. A thriving film industry in Oregon can and does have a huge financial ripple effect throughout the state. And having the security of several years of funding guaranteed to productions to attract multi year series is critical to recovering our industry and multiple other industries in our state.

Please **vote YES on SB43** to extend these critical programs for our local production industry. It supports my livelihood as well as countless others.

Regards,

Michelle & Lex Damis

SAG/AFTRA Local President -Actors/Stunt Performers

St. Helens, Oregon