

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 23, 2022

Dear Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

It is with an open heart that I am writing to encourage you to support HB4153.

As Head of Artist Services at the Northwest Film Center, I have overseen three major regional film festivals, and continual programming of regional and specifically Oregon made film work. We have administered the Oregon Media Arts Fellowship for over 15 years and we have been the focal point for hands on film education since 1971.

This community of ever growing storytellers retains a burning passion to grow not just their medium, but their industry and how it relates to overall economic growth for the state. I have heard countless times how an emerging director or vital crew member does not want to be forced to move to LA or New York to be involved in this industry. This is their home and they want nothing more than to grow it, but grow it together.

The Creative Opportunity Fund is not just a seed to continue artistic and economic growth for the film and television industry, it is a seed to grow all forms of new and emerging storytelling mediums that stem from the world of the moving image. This includes Film, Television, Video Gaming, Virtual Reality, Animation, Augmented Reality, Immersive Experiences, and so much more. Supporting this important Bill will provide the chance to see our state expand further as a creative industry workforce with voices from all communities telling their stories in these visually powerful mediums.

We can grow this future together, but we need your hands to help guide it on its way.

Kindly and Respectfully Yours,

Ben Popp
Head of Artist Services
Northwest Film Center