

Submitter: Giorgio Litt  
On Behalf Of: Soul of Wit Films  
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

I'm a resident of Beaverton. I'm a film director and producer.

I'm also currently under agreement in Oregon's OLPIF program through the Oregon Made office. It was important to me to share with the committee how important the program has been for my feature length documentary film still in production, something truly Oregon made. Perhaps in turn, I can convince the committee why our tax dollars might be worth the supporting of hearing stories like these.

Ours is the story of how a 17th Spanish galleon crashed into the coast near Nehalem, a moment where survivors met First Nations people 130 years before the arrival of Lewis and Clark. It was a moment deeply impactful to the formative identity of the northwest coast of Oregon. Fascinating enough is the mystery it launched, one still ongoing today. It was so famous it inspired the 1985 cult classic the Goonies, a film that on its own left its stamp on the coastline. The Beeswax Wreck story has all the qualifications of a UNESCO world heritage site, with one exception. It still does not have an archeological site to protect it yet. Ours is a story about not just the historical impact, but rather a greater conversation about how we remember and talk about our difficult past.

These details aren't a post-production fundraising pitch. They are facts that have limited our production scale due to the very sensitive and sometimes political nature of archaeological sites. Without the incentives, we would not be able to produce at the scale and over the length of time that we need to with such a small footprint production. Our expenses go directly to hard costs like food, gas, equipment and lodging. But it also allows for the hiring of local professional talent in more departments and closer to union scale than we'd be otherwise able given the lower budget.

I'll let the critics decide down the road how successful or not our project will be at telling the important story. But with projects like ours that may bring more awareness to just causes, there may be value for all Oregonians beyond the line-item receipts on the reimbursement forms. It's why an investment in local production is critical. It can have multiplicative and cascading effects.

Thanks for the committee's consideration of this necessary program that rightly deserves expansion.

