

Submitter: Kenji Sugahara

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 3329, which would increase the total tax credits available for certified film production development contributions to the Oregon Production Investment Fund. This is not just an increase in a cap—it's a strategic investment in Oregon's workforce, economy, and cultural legacy.

Before becoming the Director of the Oregon Department of Aviation, I was deeply involved in Oregon's film industry. I contributed to major productions such as Drake's Laugh Now, Cry Later music video filmed at the Nike Campus, Pig starring Nicolas Cage, Raging Midlife featuring Paula Abdul, and numerous commercial productions across the state. These tax incentives were critical in ensuring these projects like these stayed in Oregon. Without them, many productions would have gone elsewhere—taking jobs, economic activity, and opportunities with them.

These incentives do far more than attract film productions. They fuel Oregon's economy, creating well-paying jobs for local crews, supporting small businesses, and generating significant revenue for local communities. Film productions require everything from construction and catering to transportation and lodging, ensuring that dollars spent ripple throughout our economy.

Beyond the immediate economic impact, Oregon's film industry has lasting cultural and tourism benefits. Decades after their release, films like Stand by Me, The Goonies, and Wild continue to draw visitors to Cottage Grove, Astoria, and Cascade Locks—bringing sustained tourism revenue to these communities.

With increasing competition from other states offering robust incentives, Oregon must remain competitive to retain and grow its film industry. I urge the committee to support HB 3329 and invest in a policy that benefits our economy, our workers, and the long-term prosperity of our state.

Sincerely,

Kenji Sugahara
Salem, Oregon