

The Oregon Film Incentive program is quite literally, what the entire film industry in Oregon hinges upon. This program brings more film production into Oregon, allowing local workers to make (or keep) their careers in this somewhat struggling sector. People in this industry do the work largely out of love for the craft, but they don't want to scrape by while they do it, or eventually be forced to hang up the hat for other, more reliable jobs. They want to have opportunities to thrive, and keeping a more reliable flow of high-budget productions into Oregon is key to this.

When it comes time for a film production to choose which state to film in, state incentives are very often the deciding factor. Since we don't get a large amount of productions in Oregon, the loss of any major show or movie is a heavy blow to the local workforce. If a Hollywood production decides to pass on shooting in Oregon because incentive funds have run dry, or another state is able to promise better, then that's also a significant hit to the income that could be brought into our state and spent on local businesses, from caterers to rental shops, creative studios, hotels and the myriad of other pieces involved in this wide-ranging art form.

Productions made in Oregon also contribute long-term to the culture of Oregon. It's not always just a numbers game — the positive impact a film has on the region can't always be quantified in mere terms of how much income it brings to our economy during production. Often, there's very long-term benefits that come with having films produced here, driving tourism and inspiring other filmmakers to consider the region for additional large projects. Oregon has been home to the production of many beloved films and TV shows, like LAIKA's *Coraline*, *Free Willy*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Halloweentown*, *Portlandia*, *Into the Wild*, *The Goonies*, *Grimm*, and *Stand by Me*. These projects are still watched and passed down to new generations, strengthening the culture of this region.

Oregon has the potential to host a thriving film industry — I hear it all the time from people in every corner of the industry. We have immensely passionate and gifted local talent, and Oregon attracts such talent from people from all over the country looking for a new home, and our region is home to some of the most gorgeous sights in the US. If we're to realize that potential, we first need to set the stage and allow ourselves the conditions needed in order for the film industry to keep growing into more sustainable directions that let our people thrive. An increase in the Oregon Film Incentive Program would be a huge and necessary step on that journey.