

My name is Kayla Larson. I am Portland resident and a member of IATSE local 488 union of studio mechanics. I work in the set decoration department and have been a member of the union since 2017 and I've been working in the television and film industry since 2008. Our union includes set decoration, art department, props, grip, electric, craft service, coordinators, construction, scenic artists, propmakers, costumes, hair, makeup, greens, set medics, locations, script supervisors, sound, special effects, set teachers, video assist, and more.

I am in strong support of the proposed increase to Oregon's film incentive program. This increase would attract an additional \$100M in production budgets which is HUGE. Obviously my livelihood depends on film and television projects choosing Oregon to spend their money, time, and energy. My career allows me to invest back into my own community and city. One of my favorite things about living in Portland is the amount of independent movie theaters and concert venues we have here and seeing movies and shows is a big part of my life. I am a seasoned ticket holder to the Portland Thorns. I love craft beer and collecting records and certainly have invested lots of my hard earned money back into the local breweries and record stores that Portland and Oregon has to offer. My partner and I frequent many local craft fairs as well.

Set Decoration is a special department because to do our job we have to spend money to obtain all the items for a movie, television show, or commercial. Our job is to fill the space that we're going to see on camera and create the world for the actors to work their magic in, and that means supporting local businesses, from local rental houses to art galleries to furniture/home goods stores to hardware stores to antique shops and beyond. We eat lunch at local restaurants while we're out and about and on location dressing sets. We use actual homes and businesses for locations and those homeowners are compensated for their space and time. When stage sets are built, lumber and materials are sourced from local businesses. Films, television shows, and commercials bring so much economic gain to the places they go. And the majority of the crew are local folks, which I'm always surprised most people don't assume when we encounter them during work. It's only ever a small few that are from out of town. So the increase in a film incentive that brings more projects to Oregon directly affects local folks. When the crew is working and busy, we're able to buy houses, go to concerts, do home projects, and enjoy all the city has to offer with our loved ones.

This job has brought me some of my best friends and a supportive community of people that look out for each other. I've gained so many good and eclectic skills from my years of work in the film industry. I love getting lost in a story and being able to be a small part of bringing a story to life, whether it's a movie or television series, is really something I'm proud of and excited to do every day. And I hope to keep doing it here in Oregon for a long time.

Once again, I strongly support an increase to Oregon's film incentive program. Your decision to support this as well supports so many people and businesses. The web of impact reaches far and wide.

Thank you,

Kayla Larson

