

Submitter: Brenda Strong

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

I was born and raised in Oregon. My ancestors crossed the Oregon Trail, and I am proud to say many of my family members have contributed to the rich history of this beautiful state. Former Governor Snell, is a distant cousin, my grandfather Horatio "Ike" Weatherford was a representative in the house. His father was Oregon pioneer and wheat rancher William W. Weatherford of Arlington, Oregon. Buildings at Oregon State University are named after my maternal Weatherford family. My father helped my paternal grandfather run the Strong Holly Farm in Gresham, Oregon for decades.

But instead of staying after graduating high school, I left Oregon at 18 to pursue a career in the Entertainment industry.

Out of necessity, for the last several decades I have worked everywhere except my home state, because other areas provide lucrative tax credits to attract production to them.

Working in my home state was never a possibility until this last year, when I worked on a small independent film shot in Mollalla. That film came to Oregon because of the current tax credits. It made me so proud to film miles from where I grew up.

I have worked almost 40 years and had rich and varied career including earning two Screen Actors Guild awards and two Emmy nominations for my role in the hit ABC series Desperate Housewives.

Recently, in addition to acting, I have become a director (13 Reasons Why, #3 Normandy Lane) and producing partner with my husband. We have several projects that could be filmed here in Oregon. Bringing work to my beautiful home state where my sister and I have rebuilt my family home on my grandparents homestead at the foot of Mt Hood would be a dream come true.

This measure would help us convince our investment partners that filming in Oregon would not only be beneficial to the visual quality of the films, because of all the varied locations our state offers, but a good business decision because of the increased tax credits.

I enthusiastically support this measure to increase the tax credits for HB3329, and hope to be able to bring the wealth of our creative community to Oregon to support the talented Oregon film crews in getting more work here.

Help us bring the filmmaking benefits of increased income to the additional support systems of restaurants, hotels, retail shops and more.

To be able to see the signage 'Made in Oregon' at the end of the credits swells my Oregon heart with pride.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Strong  
[IMDb.me/brendastrong](https://www.imdb.me/brendastrong)  
Actor/director/producer