

February 15, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

RE HB 3329

I have lived in Portland intermittently since 1966, when I enrolled as a freshman at Lewis and Clark College. I spent four years at this remarkable institution, fully immersed in a liberal arts education.

After earning my Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, I moved to Paris to study at the prestigious L'École Jacques Lecoq. I was amazed by how Europeans integrate the arts, politics, and daily life during their meals.

I aimed to bring that fusion of knowledge and passion to my country. After returning to Portland in 1973, I founded TheatrElan, a production company and school for adults eager to learn the art of European physical theatre and improvisation through collaboration.

Over the years, I have developed curricula and performances that seamlessly integrate theater and education. I was fortunate to collaborate with the Artists in the Schools Program, partnering with teachers to create workshops that enriched classroom experiences. I also led a project funded by CETA, which trained adults as actors, sound technicians, and costume designers, performing and conducting workshops for latchkey children across six school districts in the greater Portland area.

I was a writer and later became a board member of The Well Arts Institute, which established a foundation for developing, implementing, and documenting the benefits of creativity as a catalyst in the healing process. With generous support from the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, the "Performing Wellness" program achieved measurable positive outcomes for individuals facing significant life traumas, such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes, and veterans of foreign wars.

As an artist who taught theater and facilitated workshops, I was impressed by the actors with whom I collaborated. Our state boasts dedicated and versatile performers whose agility allows them to excel in regional theater, television, and film. Their reputation as a community of artists and crews remains focused on maintaining high integrity and professionalism.

I encourage you to support increasing the tax credits for the Oregon Production Investment Fund. This will help ensure that Oregon remains a desirable and welcoming state for certified film productions.

Valerie Moore

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Advocate for Oregon's Film Industry