

Submitter: Sam Naiman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

Greetings,

My name is Sam Naiman. I've been in the film industry for over 20 years, and have the distinct pleasure of calling Oregon my home. Over those two decades I've seen a lot of change in our state. In that time, Portland went from a little town that caught maybe one theatrical film a year, to surpassing both Seattle and San Francisco in volume of Feature Films and Television programming on the west coast, only second to Los Angeles.

I've had the privilege of telling stories set in Oregon with some of the world's brightest stars. I operated the camera on PIG with Nicolas Cage. Seldom has there been an opportunity to focus on Oregon's natural beauty and culinary charm for theatrical audiences in the way that film and its performances did.

I operated a camera with Fred and Carrie on Portlandia and saw firsthand for 8 seasons how the exposure transformed Portland and brought resources to our state. I've had the privilege of watching thousands of crew members trained, technicians regarded as highly as in any other competitive state. And I've watched them settle down here, and raise families—we are raising our own here, believing the quality of life in Oregon to be the best in the US.

These recent years have been heavily disrupted by COVID, industry-wide strikes, and now runaway production to countries that can provide better incentives than anywhere in the US. Many countries in the world have always sponsored film and other art forms with the understanding that society as a whole benefits from them far beyond a round of checks earned.

By now you have all of the figures. What I want to testify to is the readiness of thousands of artists, crew members and businesses who's business it is to tell the story of Oregon to the world, who can't help but tell everyone they work with why they should bring their projects here, spend their capital, even make Oregon their home. I want to testify that this is not limited directly to film jobs. There are people in every industry Oregon offers who have seen our state represented on screen and come to be a part of it. People have begun entirely new industries here because of what they've seen of Oregon in film and television.

So I say to you now, please bring HB3329 home for Oregon. These incentives will fund the careers of professionals and our families, ripple out to other industries, and continue to spread the legend of our beautiful state to the rest of the world.

Thank you,

Sam Naiman, S.O.C.
Local 600 Camera Operator