

Oregon State Legislature

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Jace April, and I work in Oregon's film and television industry as a freelance teleprompter operator, production assistant, and grip. I am writing to strongly urge you to pass HB3329, which would increase the Oregon Production Investment Fund (OPIF) cap from \$20 million to \$28 million per year. This increase isn't just about jobs—it's about safeguarding Oregon's film industry, our economy, and the people who make this state the creative, inclusive, and thriving place it is.

Right now, productions are choosing their locations based on financial incentives, and other states—many of them conservative-led, with policies that undermine workers' rights and personal freedoms—are aggressively expanding their film incentive programs. Without an increase in the OPIF, Oregon risks losing projects to states like Georgia, Texas, and Florida, where right-wing politicians are eager to lure jobs away while simultaneously rolling back fundamental rights and freedoms.

This isn't just about losing productions—it's about losing Oregonians. Skilled crew members, actors, and creative professionals will be forced to relocate just to find work, sacrificing the progressive values and quality of life that Oregon provides. For me, this is more than an economic concern; as a trans individual, I don't have the luxury of chasing jobs across the country without putting my safety and well-being at risk. Oregon represents something greater than a film location—it is a place where people like me can live and work authentically, without fear. Losing our industry means losing that sense of security for many, both personally and professionally.

Increasing the OPIF cap will allow Oregon to remain competitive, keeping productions and workers here, strengthening local businesses, and ensuring that the state remains a top destination for film and television. The Oregon Media Production Association (OMPA) estimates that raising the OPIF cap could bring an additional \$100 million in production budgets each year. That translates into more jobs, more opportunities, and greater financial stability for thousands of Oregonians working behind the scenes to power this industry.

I urge you to support HB3329 and protect Oregon's creative economy. Without it, we risk losing not just an industry, but the people and values that make this state what it is. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jace April

Freelance Teleprompter Operator, Production Assistant, & Grip