

Hello, my name is Jaren Kerr. I am a freelance photographer and filmmaker based in Portland, OR. I went to school at Pacific University and graduated from their Film & Video program with honors. Since graduating in 2022 I have been navigating the local film scene and pursuing work in the Camera and Grip & Electric departments in the commercial, documentary, and narrative spaces.

By bringing large productions to the state through the film incentives you are directly stimulating the local economy. Not only are these productions bringing income to local vendors, locations, and government permits but they are actively putting money into our local filmmakers pockets. It is imperative that we recognize that that money is then directly siphoned into our local economy. Filmmaking is these people's livelihoods and they are active participants in the Oregon economy. This is the money they spend on groceries, restaurants, and local art. If these people are out of work our economy suffers greatly.

Increasing the film incentive in Oregon is a step in supporting Oregonians thrive, find community, and maintain livelihood. Aside from the local economic stimulus that comes along with bigger budget productions filming in the state there is an undeniable social benefit of supporting film in Oregon. It has been not only fulfilling but also extremely inspiring seeing the communities that filmmaking has created in Portland. The world is scary for so many communities right now. For some of them, working in film is one of their only ways to escape the terrifying reality we are currently living through. For others, it's consuming the end product that helps them get through the day. Arts and entertainment are key in maintaining community and finding the light or pointing out the darkness in life.

I had the honor of working on two separate feature narrative films shooting in town that were here due to the existing film incentives. These two projects gave me the opportunity of meeting some of the hardest working, most passionate, and genuine humans I've met in my entire life. There are few professions that exist where a group of strangers are thrown on a team and put through the wringer for 20+ days and they come out as a family. When I show up to work on set, it's a feeling I cannot really articulate. The closest thing I can compare it to is a sense of unconditional love. You know everyone is there to put their all into this one project.

I urge you to support HB-3329 and in turn choose to support your fellow Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Jaren Kerr