

Submitter: Caleb Sng

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

I was able to begin my career in the film production thanks to the Portland film industry and its tight-knit community. I moved to Los Angeles in 2018 while pursuing my undergraduate degree in hopes that I would find an in to the film world there. I learned a great deal and gained much experience there but at the end of 2020, my graduating year, I found myself with no job prospects in an industry that was seemingly, along with the world, headed to its demise. I moved back to Portland with my wife, a place I was always drawn to, and we planted our roots here, basically giving up on a career in film. Cut to 2 years later, my desire to be a filmmaker had barely wavered. I started visiting the local rental house, Koerner Camera Systems, in hopes that I could make some new connections with people working locally. Not only did I meet some of the most knowledgeable and adept professionals, they were so friendly, welcoming, and generous with their expertise. The taste of that world only made me hungrier. I continued to work on productions, albeit smaller ones, in hopes that I would one day build the reputation and skillset that befitted larger projects—namely productions backed by the union. Last year, I was invited by one of those very same people to join the camera department of Criminal, an Amazon Prime show. It was a dream come true to have the opportunity to work on a show of that scale (it was at one point the biggest production in the country) alongside people I regarded as role models and career exemplars. Before me was the firsthand experience of a “Hollywood-level” set, and I did not take a second of it for granted. I learned as much as I could and was able to establish myself as a reliable and experienced member of the camera department. It was because of that show that I was able to join the International Cinematographers Guild, the IATSE Local 600 union, and get hired on other union-level productions. Working in this industry is still very difficult and can really take a lot out of a person, but I would be lying if I said that I didn’t feel immense pride, joy, and fulfillment to know that I am living my dream of being a part of Local 600—something that I might not have attained if I remained in the more competitive industry in Los Angeles. I believe that HB3329 can do this for so many people, and also bring interest and inject fiscal stimulus into Oregon’s economy. Please support Portland’s film industry and your local filmmakers. Thank you.