

Submitter: Ashley Song
On Behalf Of: Desert Island Studios
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

Dear House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

As an actor, producer, and business owner, I rely on the infrastructure and support that the state's tax incentives provide for our film and media industry. Not only does it encourage productions to film in Oregon (which creates job for local actors and crew), it promotes the state as a destination for tourists and cinephiles. As an independent film producer, the Local Oregon Production Investment Fund and the Regional Oregon Production Investment Fund allow me to help tell Oregonians' stories, whether through narrative films like SOMETHING ABOUT THE TIDE - a project I pitched as part of Tribeca's Untold Stories program last year, or 5 WEEKS IN SILVERTON - a documentary cataloguing the last weeks of Oregon political legend Stu Rasmussen's life. My studio facility, Desert Island Studios, relies on out-of-town productions for income from studio bookings, and that income goes towards supporting the educational programming we provide and the resources we make available to our filmmaking community, particularly emerging artists from underrepresented communities.

An increase in the incentives money would allow our industry to grow. This is an opportunity for Oregon to grasp some of the work that is moving out of major hubs like Los Angeles and New York City where production can be prohibitively expensive and difficult to navigate due to complicated infrastructure, weather, an oversaturated market, etc. As the film industry becomes more decentralized, I would love to see Oregon emerge as a top destination for studios and producers looking to make high quality art against the diverse backdrop of our beautiful state. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Cheers,
Ashley Song