

Submitter: Mike Alberson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3329

I am the owner of MetroWatch, a private security company based in Vancouver, WA. MetroWatch has been heavily involved with the filming industry for 20+ years, primarily in the Portland Metropolitan area. We provide security service for residential, commercial, industrial, and healthcare, but in 2024 nearly a third of our business was conducted providing private security for the filming of television shows, movies, and commercials, all of which was in Oregon. That allows us to retain a staff of 100-120 security officers. The business we've received through the film industry have enabled us to not only provide a living wage for our employees, but initiate a 401(k) program and tuition reimbursement, helping turn this job into a career for our employees.

Because of the productions with which we have had the privilege of working, we are able to provide a sustainable job for people from all walks of life. This was most evident during the lockdowns in 2020 due to Covid-19. When filming resumed later that summer, we were able to increase our staff to meet the needs of the productions. I expected it to be quite difficult due to the moratorium on evictions. Instead, we got applicants from other industries that simply wanted to work to provide for their family, but their jobs had all shut down. Many of them said that they never had any intention of working security, but the impact on the hospitality and restaurant industry had been devastating. We were able to retain the majority of those officers, even when their previous jobs reopened. That wouldn't have been possible without the film industry. Increasing the tax credits to encourage film production development in Oregon would greatly contribute to our ability to keep our officers employed, and expand with the growing needs.