

Subject: (none)
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From: Sara Burton
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RE: SUPPORT / HB3329

The first time I headed my department was in 1999, it was for Oregon native filmmaker, Gus Van Sant Jr and the movie was "My Own Private Idaho". I was the location manager, finding the great and colorful locations, filing permits, hiring traffic control, and spreading my budget throughout the community. The location manager is on the front/pre-production of any movie or commercials who film in our state. I'm the first call to see if we have suitable locations for any given filming project. I am a single woman, and this industry has given me a great living, being able to purchase my first home when I turned 42 years old. Soon after, I went to a Governor's address to our industry and slipped a thank you note to Governor Ted Kulongoski, he was so touched, he read my note to the room. This is what our industry is all about, working families and singles who have earned enough to purchase a home, participate in our tax base, and create a well-paid, prosperous career as a creative. I am still working and very much active in our filming community, providing locations for commercial projects. I like to say, "locations" are to the film industry, what Douglas Fir trees are to the lumber industry. Essential.

My whole industry has been in free fall since the 2022 writers' strike, the 2023 actors strike, then the threat of IATSE and the Teamsters were next, but they settled. They all settled, thank goodness, but the work has yet to return in the same level it once came to our beautiful state. The impact is still playing out in our film community with less projects and bigger budget movies eating up the incentive money not leaving any for other film projects to come in an employ crew after they finish up.

Producers shop tax incentives, changing scripts to suit the location/state with the best incentive.

Because of the similar "look" of the locations, Oregon continues to compete unsuccessfully with Vancouver BC for film projects. We have lost so many opportunities because our incentive program gets eaten up by just a few projects and Canada offers both a federal 25% of qualified labor expenditures and additional incentives provided by the Province it is filmed ranging from 20%-35% on qualified both labor and "all spend" in their communities. Combined with the history of our exchange rate, we are not in their league and can't compete. Typically, Oregon film projects usually last anywhere from 2 weeks to 4 months. After that, the crew needs another project to jump onto and without additional incentive funding, we can't compete and there are no jobs for us. I am a career professional and have done this job, had my own business here in Oregon since 1988 when I graduated from University of Oregon, via Grant High School.

Last year I had to sell that condo that Governor Kulongoski read about to the room because I couldn't make ends meet, I'm 61.

Please support HB3329, we need it and can't compete without it. Thank you.

Sara Burton
503.998.2793
GirlsScoutLocations.com

