

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this testimony in support of HB5024, funding towards the Oregon Film Office.

This funding of the Oregon Film Office, Tim Williams and his team is vitally important to upholding the entirety of Oregon's film industry. As a working member of this industry for the past 7 years, it has allowed me and thousands to work in our chosen profession and continue to not only support ourselves and our families, but to allow revenue to continuously come into Oregon through our work.

Due to Tim and his team's continued hard work and dedication to this industry, Oregon is not just a contender with other large film markets in the US – it is a desired destination for projects to film in. Negatively affecting the funding of the Oregon Film Office would be detrimental to a large part of the community here and would crush the momentum and years of work that has been built to continue to have Oregon have a stake in the game.

As I said, I have specifically worked in this market of the film industry for the last 7 years, building my career in casting under Casting Director, Simon Max Hill of simon max hill casting – the company who did the entirety of the casting for all 8 seasons of 'Portlandia', as well as many films, television shows and commercials that have been filmed in Oregon over the past 20 years.

'Portlandia' is a prime example of how funding the Oregon Film Office is not only supporting countless jobs for several years, but also increased tourism and notoriety for the state – and still does to this day. This is just one example of how continuing to support the funding of this industry within Oregon is beneficial to the community as a whole.

I highly urge you to push HB5024 through, for we are an industry of workhorse people who love what we do and will continue to bring in revenue for the state we love working in for many years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lexi Morsch
Associate Casting Director
simon max hill casting