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March 15, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
% Joint Subcommittee on Transportation
and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Personal Testimony in Support of HB 5024

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

As a gay Asian immigrant film director and producer, I know firsthand how difficult it is to break into the industry, especially when telling stories that challenge the status quo. That's why I am writing today in strong support of HB 5024. This bill funds the Oregon Film Office, which administers the Oregon Production Incentive Fund, which in return creates opportunities for independent filmmakers to tell diverse, underrepresented stories that might otherwise never be seen.

I founded No Sunrise Wasted, my Oregon production company, to create films that uplift unheard voices. My Oregon state-funded films have been featured on airlines, public and university libraries, PBS, streaming platforms and the premium cable network Starz, proving that stories rooted in identity, resilience, and belonging resonate far beyond our state's borders. Yet, without the support of the Oregon Film Office administering the film incentives, many of these films would never have been possible.

Unlike major studios with access to deep financial resources, independent filmmakers rely on state-level incentives to make our projects viable. The Oregon Production Investment Fund has played a crucial role in ensuring that local artists can create meaningful, high-quality films while keeping jobs and production dollars in our state. Every dollar that goes into a local production supports crew members, small businesses, and vendors who depend on this industry to sustain their livelihoods.

But more than that, this rebate is an investment in stories that reflect the diversity and richness of Oregon itself. It allows independent filmmakers like me to take creative risks, hire local talent, and make films that represent LGBTQ+, immigrant, and BIPOC experiences—perspectives that are too often overlooked in mainstream media. If we want Oregon to remain a place where artists can thrive and where new voices can emerge, we must ensure that our incentive programs continue to support creators of all backgrounds.

This bill is about more than just the funding of the Oregon Film Office—it's about economic opportunity, cultural representation, and creative equity. It's about keeping Oregon at the forefront of storytelling, not just for the blockbuster productions that come here but for the independent voices that call this state home.

I urge you to pass HB 5024 and continue supporting the Oregon Film Office's support of independent filmmakers. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to a thriving creative economy. I would be happy to further discuss the vital role this program plays in my work and in our state's film community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Devin', followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Devin Fei-Fan Tau
Director | Producer
No Sunrise Wasted