

March 23, 2025

My name is Fran Bittakis, and I'm an independent film producer who has been working in Oregon's film industry since 2019. Over the past five years, Oregon's production incentives have played a crucial role in my ability to build a sustainable career and bring high-quality independent films to the state. This industry has not only provided me with financial stability but has also allowed me to create opportunities for others—especially women, LGBTQIA2S+, non-binary, trans, and BIPOC filmmakers, who are often underrepresented in this field.

As a producer, I prioritize hiring diverse crews and supporting minority-owned businesses. When looking for catering, for example, I actively seek out women-of-color-owned restaurants. Every dollar spent on film production in Oregon goes beyond the set—it directly benefits local businesses, freelancers, and creative entrepreneurs. The impact of the Oregon Production Investment Fund (OPIF) is felt across industries, from hospitality to equipment rental houses to post-production facilities.

Right now, I'm working to bring two narrative features to Oregon, each with a \$5 million budget. One of these projects is also considering Canada, where the tax incentive is higher. However, I know that with my deep connections in Oregon, our production value will be stronger here—allowing us to hire top-tier local crew, invest in small businesses, and keep jobs in our state. The challenge is convincing financiers that Oregon is the better choice, and that's where HB3329 comes in.

Increasing OPIF's cap from \$20M to \$28M would generate an additional \$32M in production spending, keeping Oregon competitive and ensuring that filmmakers like me can continue to grow our careers here. Without this expansion, we risk losing jobs and talent to other states and countries.

I urge lawmakers to pass HB3329. Investing in our film industry is an investment in Oregon's economy, its workforce, and the future of independent filmmaking in our state.

In Solidarity,
Fran Bittakis

Fran Bittakis / ฟราน บิทากิส (she/her)
JOOP JOOP Creative (Producer / Founder)
IATSE Local 488 (POC)
503-367-0103