

Submitter: Angella Davis
On Behalf Of: IATSE LOCAL 488
Committee: Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB120
Subject: Testimony in Support of Sustaining Film Industry Tax Expenditures (SB 120 Study)

Committee: Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures
Meeting Date: 6/10/2025 1:00 PM
Bill: SB 120 Public Hearing
Angella Davis
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Organization/City: Vernonia
On Behalf Of:** IATSE Local 488

Testimony

Position: Support for SB 120's study of tax expenditures with emphasis on retaining film incentives.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Angella Davis, a proud member of IATSE Local 488 and a Vernonia resident. For 17 years, I've worked as a union filmmaker on over 125 commercials, films, and television productions—many right here in Oregon. This career allowed me to buy a home and build a life in our state.

Yet in recent years, I've been forced to chase work primarily in Montana and Washington due to the lack of union-scale productions in Oregon. This exodus represents a direct economic loss: my wages, local spending, and tax contributions leave our state when I must work elsewhere.

I fiercely support SB 120's mandate to study tax expenditures and urge you to recognize how critical film production incentives are to retaining workers like me. Oregon's film tax credits sustain middle-class union jobs. Without competitive incentives:

1. Our talent flees; Productions follow incentives, taking our paychecks and expertise with them.
2. Communities lose; Crew salaries support Main Street businesses—from Vernonia hardware stores to Portland vendors.
3. Stability erodes: Union projects provide healthcare, pensions, and fair wages that

freelance gigs cannot match.

As you evaluate tax expenditures, **please prioritize:

Retaining/expanding incentives that attract high-budget, union-scale productions.
Measuring workforce retention, track how many skilled Oregonians are forced to leave for work.

I bought a home here, and I'm here to stay. Let's keep film professionals like me working in Oregon.

Respectfully,
Angella Davis
Writer-Medic-Stagehand
IATSE Local 488 Member
angella.l.davis@gmail.com