



BENT

April 20, 2011

Joint Committee on Tax Credits
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

MEASURE: HB 2167
EXHIBIT: T
Joint Committee on Tax Credits 76th Session
DATE: 04.21.2011 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Ray Di Carlo

RE: BENT IMAGE LAB / HB 2167

Dear Chair Burdick, Chair Bailey, Chair Berger,

Simply put, House Bill 2167 allows us to hire more Oregonians.

Bent Image Lab was started as a vehicle to help find work for all the talented film and television animators, artists, and production personnel in Oregon who found themselves faced with the possibility of having to leave the State to survive financially after 911. It was a time when the industry was in dire trouble on a national scale.

Over the years, we have had to face unfair competition from the substantial rebates and incentives offered by Canada, and other countries. We have had to tell clients that we would meet their budget needs at the Canadian rebate level and still deliver a high quality product. We went so far as to call Portland "The Other Canada". As the economy continued to slow, each year it became harder and harder to compete, OPIF, I-OPIF and Greenlight have made it possible for us to continue to compete on a global level.

We now draw work away from Canada, China, India, the Middle East and other international areas.

As the visual effects industry has begun to migrate beyond the US borders, Bill 2167 will continue to allow companies like ours to stem the tide.

Before the Oregon incentive program began, we had a chance to do an episodic animated television show but were asked to compete with the Canadian rebates. It was our job if we wanted it, but we could not figure out how to make it break even, or even just lose 10 or 15 percent. If the OPIF, I-OPIF and Greenlight programs had been available at that time, we would still be employing Oregon workers on that show today. In the end, we had to pass on the series, which is still being done in Canada.

With the help of the OPIF, I-OPIF and Greenlight programs, we have been able to bring work to hundreds of Oregonians over the last 5 years, and are currently working on a project that will employ an additional 80 members of the art, animation, and film community.

Having participated in the small business community here in Portland for the past 24 years, I can say with confidence that the Oregon Film incentives are helping to keep Portland's talented artists and technicians employed in Oregon.

With Kind Regards,

Ray Di Carlo
Executive Producer / Partner

Cc: Tom McFadden
Vince Porter