

Chair Read, members of the committee, my name is Jose Behar, Head of Business Development at Dean Devlin's Electric Entertainment. I would first like to thank all of you and Governor Kitzhaber for your continued support and commitment to the expansion of the Oregon Production Investment Fund and for giving me the opportunity to speak in representation of our company today.

From the time that Executive Producer Dean Devlin first brought Leverage to Oregon, great strides in expanding Oregon's economy have been made. While shooting 64 episodes of Leverage in the span of three and a half years, our company alone spent approximately \$100M and hired over two thousand people here in my home state. During that time, we contributed to the expansion of the pool of qualified crewmembers that supported multiple productions, and built the infrastructure that will foster production of future projects and generate many new jobs in Oregon. We have invested in building a state-of-the-art facility, with soundstages, a full prop house, construction mill and a wardrobe department in Clackamas County. And this is the impact of just one production.

It is important to remember that the Film and Television industry is, at its core a manufacturing industry. We produce, package and export entertainment product worldwide. Similarly to other manufacturing businesses, the economic impact of this industry should be measured not only by the direct tax revenues an individual production provides, but also by the revenues and jobs generated by the supply chain of products and services needed to package our final product. In our case, the supply chain consists of a wide array of Oregon products and services ranging from bottled water, lumber, hardware, transportation, to restaurants and hotels just to name a few.

While Leverage was not renewed for a sixth season, Dean Devlin and Electric Entertainment's commitment to the expansion of Oregon's Film and Television manufacturing industry remains very strong.

We have begun pre-production on a pilot for TNT and plan to start pre-production for an independent feature that is projected to be shot here in Oregon later this year. Having said that, we had to make the difficult financial decision to move the biggest motion picture project that our company is producing this year out of Oregon to another state that has a fully funded program. This production with a budget of over \$100 million would have employed over a thousand people and further supported the supply chain of Oregon businesses. As you may have heard or will hear later in today's hearing, our big budget project is just one example of the many others that were turned away for lack of investment funds. These were real dollars. Real jobs. Real opportunities missed.

We can all agree that we have a prime opportunity to stimulate Oregon's economy through this industry. However, based on our experience, we believe that to be successful in creating more entertainment jobs and revenues for the state, we need the expansion of the Oregon Production Investment Fund in order to support more than just the two or three productions a year that the program currently allows due to fund limitations.

I sincerely appreciate your time and respectfully ask that you support the expansion of the Oregon Production Investment Fund and support HB 2267. Thank you.