



March 12, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2898: Relating to incentives for film production or media production

Clackamas County supports HB 2898: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2898, which increases the amount of reimbursement from the Oregon Production Investment Fund (OPIF) that is available to local filmmakers or media production service companies. The OPIF serves as a vital economic development tool for the state by providing a critical financial incentive that has a proven track record of helping to recruit nationally-known filming projects to Oregon while keeping current projects in the state.

As home to an incredibly diverse landscape of urban, agricultural, small towns, and mountain settings perfect for film locations, Clackamas County holds obvious appeal to filmmakers and production companies. Large production movies such as *Twilight* (2008), *Gone* (2011), and *Wild* (2014) have filmed in Clackamas County in recent years. In addition, we also frequently serve as the filming location for television series *Portlandia*, *Grimm*, and *The Librarians*, which has their sound stage located within the County. To cultivate this burgeoning industry, Clackamas County serves as a resource to production companies by providing technical assistance and securing filming locations. Most recently, the County unveiled a new one-stop online permitting application process for film and media production enterprises wishing to film anywhere in Clackamas County, which allows filmmakers to apply for filming with just a few computer keystrokes.

According to the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon's film and television industry grew by 69% from September 2009 to September 2014 – an increase of nearly 1,000 jobs. In 2013, the average annual salary for the industry was over \$43,000, and by the fall of 2014, at least 351 Oregon-based companies engaged in motion picture and video work. While Clackamas County has had a front row seat in witnessing this growth, we remain concerned over Oregon's ability to remain competitive in the industry in light of greater incentives provided by other states. We urge a "yes" vote for HB 2898.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.