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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2072**

MARCH 13, 2015 3:00 PM, HR E

REPRESENTATIVE CADDY MCKEOWN, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIS, VICE-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS GORSEK, VICE-CHAIR

REPRESENTATIVE CLIFF BENTZ
REPRESENTATIVE JODI HACK
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LIVELY
REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN MCLAIN

Chair McKeown, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eryn Goodman and I am a casting director based in Portland, Oregon. I have worked for Cast Iron Studios, a local film and television casting company, for the past nine and a half years.

The Oregon Production Incentive Fund has had a dramatic effect on everyone employed by Cast Iron Studios. I am here today to share my story.

I began as a casting assistant in 2006. In 2009, thanks to OPIF, the TNT series *Leverage* decided to shoot in Oregon. This was during the depth of the recession, so instead of getting laid off, I was promoted to Casting Associate, and got to work on the first TV series to shoot in Oregon since the 1990s.

Leverage not only helped us keep the doors open during a difficult time, but the training I received by working several seasons on this show enabled me to be promoted to full Casting Director in 2011. Since then, I have worked as a casting director on *Grimm* and many other projects, and have watched the company grow and flourish, all thanks to OPIF.

Last year, we had set a goal to get revenue back to pre-recession levels, but when the Legislature's expansion of the program made it possible for us to cast *Wild* and *The Librarians*—in addition to *Grimm*—we blew past all of our projections to have our busiest year on record.

In just one year, my boss bought all new computers for the office, established the company's first employer-matching retirement plan, paid generous bonuses to full-time staff, created two new part-time positions, and gave raises to all existing employees.

Needless to say, we've already decided that if HB 2072 passes this session, we will be bringing on another full-time employee to handle the workload.

On a personal note, the increase in my income last year meant that I was able to buy my first home in District 46, and start an employer-matched IRA. While homeownership and a retirement fund had long been goals of mine, the arrival of my daughter in December was the real game changer. Thanks to the incredible growth in our company, due in no small part to OPIF, I was lucky enough to be granted three months of PAID maternity leave.

We constantly hear about the workplace needing to support families, and I'm so proud to be a part of a company that has been able to do just that. These past three months have been nothing short of incredible and I'm so grateful to be returning to such a supportive environment.

One final subject I would like to touch upon is how Oregon film and television production benefits local charities and non-profits.

Our company has for many years hosted a benefit for the Oregon Food Bank around Christmastime, allowing any actor who brings us a few cans of food to audition for us. Last year, we raised over 2500 meals for the Food Bank in just five hours.

Even more impressively, *Grimm* cast members recently established the "Grimmster Endowment Fund" for patients and families at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The gala they hosted in February raised a staggering \$310,000 and will permanently endow the fund, so it lives on in perpetuity at the Doernbecher Foundation.

All of the OPIF-supported TV series have donated countless items to fundraising auctions since setting up shop in Oregon—including props, costumes, autographed posters and set visits—with proceeds supporting the arts, education, and more.

Therefore, the incentive program has not only helped our industry create real, family-wage jobs with benefits—like mine—but it has helped to make a big difference in the lives of the sick, the needy and the hungry across the state.

So I am here today with my daughter Margaret to urge you to support the expansion of this highly successful program. We are all truly counting on it to provide for our families.