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Staff

Charles Massie

Executive Director

Heather Tramp

Programs & Marketing Coordinator

205 Riverside Drive, Suite

A

Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Phone: (541) 884-5193

Fax: (541) 884-5195



Klamath County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Lead. Connect. Advocate.

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Sen. Lee Beyer, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Attn: James Labar

March 30, 2015

RE: Support for SB872

Dear Chairman Beyer and Committee Members,

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce serves as the official film and media liaison for Klamath County and the City of Klamath Falls. As such we interact locally, with production companies seeking location information, support services, and guidance working with government agencies and organizations in regards to local and State regulations, and potential economic incentives.

Due to the efforts of the Oregon Film Office and the Oregon Production Investment Fund film and media production is becoming a regular statewide activity, and has certainly put Klamath County and Klamath Falls on the film making map.

Recently Klamath County and Klamath Falls served as a location for the film "Brother In Laws" and Crater Lake National Park, in Klamath County, served as a location for the film "Wild". These two high profile projects are indicative of the kinds of impacts film production can have on a community or region, both economically and in the form of excellent public relations. The impacts are even greater when you consider the rural settings and the direct spending into smaller communities.

In Klamath Falls "Brother In Laws" filming directly benefited lodging, foodservice, commercial property owners, materials and construction supply providers, as well as hiring residents as crew and on camera talent. We estimate the production company spent over \$600,000 in Klamath County in a little over two full weeks.

"The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is committed to Klamath County by advancing its economic vitality and quality of life through the education, promotion and networking of our members"

- The Gathering Grounds, a local coffee house, provided the on set beverage and snack services for company during the entire local shoot. This was particularly important to a small start-up. While the hours were long, the owner Brandon Sickler, felt it the hard work was entirely worth the effort and truly helped get his business off the ground.
- The Days Inn rented out an entire wing of rooms for lodging and production office space.
- Restaurants in the downtown area saw significant increases in business throughout the time the film was shooting.
- Lake of the Woods Resort hosted the film company for more than a week.
- Local rental car companies benefited.
- The company hired local Oregon Tech students as drivers and production assistants.
- The Running Y Resort housed production crews and talent.
- Downtown service stations filled vehicles with fuel.
- Grocery and convenience stores were busier than usual.

The immediate bump in revenue to local businesses and a light touch on natural resources and infrastructure make these activities ideal in rural communities, and the economic multiplier effect within a community can increase the impact of \$600,000 to nearly a million dollars quite quickly - very real economic stimulus on small town Main streets.

Additionally to the “Brother In Laws”, Klamath (and Lake) County have hosted a number of car commercial shoots, small independent films, and even a couple of reality TV shows.

- In late 2011, a local man was chosen to appear in a reality television show. The working title was “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” and producers hoped to be picked up by NBC. Over the course of three days, a production team flew to Klamath Falls, stayed in local hotels, ate in local restaurants including MC’s on Main and Nibbley’s, and filmed at several locations including the airport, the Chamber offices/conference rooms, and an apartment located downtown. They hired two locals (Christy Soto and Mike Stier) for assisting. The television show was never picked up.
- In 2012, a car commercial was filmed and photographed near Rocky Point, Oregon in Klamath County. The Chamber’s marketing coordinator assisted with finding local support including caterers, lodging, and a production assistant. Wubba’s BBQ Shack was hired to provide three meals over three days for actors and the production team. Two local models were chosen to be included in the photography sessions for a magazine ad. A local man with some experience was selected as an assistant. The team

purchased approximately \$2,000 worth of outdoor clothing from local retailer, The Ledge.

Film and media production offers rural Oregon an opportunity for some parity with metro areas, the rural parts of the state have vistas, landscapes, small towns that appeal to film makers, TV productions, video companies, and still photographers. The high profile TV productions based in Portland garner national publicity and pump dollars into those economies, and the impacts ripple out into the rest of the state. Media production is driven by unique looks, access to support services, and a competitive economic environment.

The Oregon Production Investment Fund is one of the primary tools the Film Office has to attract interest and provide support for productions that hire locally, spend locally, and promote Oregon as a destination for visiting and experiencing.

Since "Wild" played in theaters across the country our office, and the visitor information organization, has seen an uptick in requests for information on the Pacific Crest Trail and Crater Lake National Park. These kinds of endeavors are an important part of the mix in spurring economic vitality through direct spending and indirect promotion.

We urge your support of SB872

Thank you for your consideration.



Charles "Chip" Massie
Executive Director, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce
541-884-5193
cmassie@klamath.org