

March 31, 2015

My name is Christina Kortum, and I am the owner of Ravenous Studios based in Portland, Oregon. My business specializes in special effects makeup and custom prop work. I have been lucky enough to either work on, or provide items for, such shows as Librarians, Grimm, Wild, Portlandia, and other productions here in Oregon. Some of you may remember me from film industry day a few years back, where I loosed a wild Sasquatch in the capitol building! I started my film career right here in Oregon.

Before the incentive program, my business was incredibly small. Short films and local features mostly, and most of the work was performed on nights and weekends around a regular 9-5 job. There was not enough work in the state to go full time with it, and the pay was very low.

All of that changed with the film incentive program. As my skill set grew, the opportunities I had to work also grew with the film program. After the incentive was renewed in 2013 I ended up becoming so busy I quit my day job and began to work full time in the film industry. The larger productions paid well, and my family finally started to recover from the pain of the recession. It was a huge step up for us, and the work was artistically rewarding and exciting.

My art in makeup effects has grown to the point that my business being located in Oregon is a draw for producers wanting to film up here, and I employ all local talent when I do land such a contract. But lately there have been several features I've been in negotiation with that left for another state simply because of our film incentive being tapped out. The disconcerting part is the film incentive was the only reason they went to another state, because we were their top choice otherwise. Even more upsetting, several Oregon based producers that I've worked with for years are taking their production to other film regions for the same reason.

As I look towards the future I'm concerned about my business succeeding here in Oregon. Without an incentive program that is competitive with other states wooing away business, to continue doing what I'm doing I will have to actively look work outside Oregon and be away from my family for months on end. My business has grown to the point I would like to hire several employees, but with the future looking questionable as far as Oregon attracting productions I'm concerned and have not expanded. If the film program was able to expand under SB872, I would not be so hesitant to grow my company.

Unlike many states, Oregon has done a great job growing its incentive program in a healthy way that allowed residents to grow in their skills with the program. Please continue the great job - we're ready to work.

Sincerely

Christina Kortum