

To:
Chair Representative Ann Lininger
Vice-Chair Representative Pam Marsh
Vice-Chair Representative David Brock-Smith
Members of the House Committee on Economic
Development and Trade

Re:
HB2244

February 13, 2017



Dear Committee Members,

"When settlers began their migration westbound on the Oregon Trail a fork in the road led to a crucial decision to be made. Head south to California and gamble on striking big in the gold rush. Or travel the northern route to Oregon, a place where you could build a life and develop roots equally as rich."

As a homeowner of five years, I witnessed the recent migration of settlers in Portland which very much parallels the narrative above. I heard that comparison at TEDx PDX this past spring and it really stuck with me. For the media professionals living in Cully, our mantra is, "we're here to stay" verses "strike it rich" in the gold mines of Beverly Hills or Silicon Valley where bubbles burst, projects implode and investors walk away.

I work in an industry that values the products we create. We love what we do and we love making film here in Oregon. It takes sweat. It takes grit. This is a discipline that requires focus. Our creative community recognizes the cinematic potential that resides in our backyard and we need legislation in place that supports it's growth.

When we work at home our neighborhoods thrive, send us on the road and the community dives. We cannot be makers or contribute time to our fellow neighbor if we are in a constant state of displacement. An investment in our workers needs to be made. HB2244 allocates funds directly back into the Cully neighborhood, where film professionals like myself have chosen the "we're here to stay" ethos verses "winner-takes-all" attitude. There is an opportunity to pioneer the digital frontier. To make a real difference at home.

Vote yes on HB2244.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Whit Vogel", written in a cursive style.

Whit Vogel
IATSE Local 800 Art Director
6611 NE Alberta Street
Portland, OR 97218