



To Whom It May Concern:

Seven years ago, I moved to Portland from Los Angeles with two-days' notice because NBC Universal offered me a position on the TV series "Grimm". As a location manager, I was hired from out of state because it's a difficult position to fill. The skillset of a location manager is hard to find in cities that don't have extensive infrastructure in the film industry. "Grimm" was a major success story for the OPIF and GOLR programs and greatly contributed to the growth of Oregon film infrastructure. As I experienced that infrastructure grow, I saw the potential to have a lasting career here in Oregon, and I decided to raise a family here.

Since 2013, I've been employed by ten productions taking advantage of the OPIF and GOLR programs. These programs make possible the kind of productions that provide higher quality jobs, and in turn, have a greater lasting impact on our film community as well as other ancillary communities and businesses. The larger the scale of the production, the further the budget will reach beyond the film industry and into the livelihoods of all Oregon residents. The OPIF and GOLR programs are essential to attracting these large-scale productions.

The film and television industry isn't limited to Hollywood anymore. State tax incentives are driving the film business. The states providing the most competitive incentives are building infrastructure for their local film communities, and are flourishing because of this investment. I have witnessed this first hand as I lived and worked in NYC, Philadelphia, and LA.

Extending the OPIF and GOLR programs positions Oregon to compete with these cities. With the coronavirus pandemic increasing the demand for home entertainment, the methods in which television series, commercials, and film productions are producing content have changed dramatically. Cinematic virtual reality productions, interactive video games, CG animation, and volumetric VR are the future of entertainment now that we have the technology and a demand to create under new safety conditions. Oregon is home to award-winning animation studios and creative agencies that attract talent from all around the world. There is a major opportunity for growth in local virtual reality and post-production jobs. Since the VR technology is new, there is exponential potential to cultivate home-grown Oregon talent for these well-paid positions and strengthen the local economy through ancillary markets.

As the General Manager of a new soundstage for film, TV, commercial, and VR productions in Troutdale, I have been approached by several industry professionals about the need for a multi-year program to help train these new VR and XR positions locally rather than outsource them from Los Angeles. I fully support the idea to have our own pool of local talent driving our industry and keeping the jobs here in Oregon. I support SB43 for this reason — to extend and increase our resources so that we can meet the demands of our industry.

Dan Eason
General Manager – Vision Stages, LLC
27100 SE Stark Street, Troutdale, OR 97060