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House Committee on Revenue
Chair Nancy Nathanson

The City of St. Helens welcomes the film industry. Partnership with production teams has been a part of our history and we are committed to making it part of our future. As a City, we work hard to be responsive to the needs and timelines of the industry. In this past year, we welcomed The Birch Media to our city and region. As a city, we welcomed the crew and worked hard to streamline communications and permitting so that the shoot could be successful even with COVID -19 restrictions in place and wildfire smoke affecting the region.

While we do not track personal spending, the crew rented a local office, and their activity provided a boost to our local economy as many were suffering from pandemic related closures and impacts. We have reports of *The Birch* spending over \$40,000 in lodging alone, this does not consider food service, which was a boost for local restaurants and catering companies struggling to survive COVID-19 related closures.

Our film history is a point of pride for our community. St. Helens is known worldwide as "Halloweentown" thanks to the 1998 Disney film by the same name. More recently, filming of *Twilight* has also brought tourists to our city and region. We hear from visitors that they are here specifically to explore our film history while enjoying our town's restaurants, shopping and visitor amenities. The positive impacts on tourism cannot be overstated. Every October, "Spirit of Halloweentown" celebrations bring thousands of people to our city and neighboring communities. These visitors explore our city, dine in local restaurants, shop and stay here in St. Helens.

St. Helens has recently joined as a partner to promote the Oregon Film Trail. We are excited to be a part of this project which intends to highlight these unique places in Oregon and drive local tourism. We are excited to celebrate our film history and continue to make it by welcoming productions.

Sincerely,
Mayor/JW