

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is written in support of HB 3244, which would increase the maximum amount of tax credits for certified film production development contributions that may be certified for fiscal year for all taxpayers.

The film industry has been my chosen career path since 1997 when I moved to Portland to explore the creative community and attend school. During the next several years I worked on numerous productions, ranging from commercials to independent shorts to movies, both in Oregon and in Los Angeles. I was witness to the highs and the lows of our industry in Portland during that time, and debated moving south several times. I ultimately chose to stay in the Pacific Northwest and have a family, and we are now fully supported by the continual growth of the film industry here in Oregon.

I eventually stopped freelance and settled at Koerner Camera Systems, and have watched the company grow as the industry has. Our company has become a communication and learning hub for the community, and does extensive outreach with various organizations to facilitate diversity and inclusion in our local film crews. For example, we partner with Portland State University to bring in student interns, exposing them to the front lines of productions and helping them make connections with producers looking for new people. Supporting the bill would continue to support companies such as ours, and by extension, all local tradespeople and tradespeople-to-be.

Increasing the max tax credits here in Oregon would not only continue to bolster our existing industry, but it would encourage skilled craftspeople and their families to locate here, bringing growth and trade to the city. More productions in the state mean more money spent locally while visiting crew are here, on necessities like food, board and travel, as well as non-necessities such as entertainment and recreation.

It is also important to note that an increase to OPIF also means a proportional increase to both the L-OPIF and R-OPIF funds which directly support lower budgeted local productions and regional production work, respectively.

Please pass this bill, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kari Fouts  
Koerner Camera Systems  
Portland, OR