



House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 19, 2021

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing to urge you to **vote YES on HB 3244** to expand the Oregon Production Incentive Fund (OPIF) from \$14 million to \$20 million. This program is critical to keeping our state competitive for film, TV, commercials, and other digital media.

I have worked in La Grande for 12 years building a cultural destination event, The Eastern Oregon Film Festival, that features independent cinema from around the world. This year we launched a residency program for filmmakers to create screenplays that are specific to Eastern Oregon, encouraging a return for production and subsequent exhibition at our festival and beyond.

As rural areas are now seeing more and more interest as backdrops to film, media and beyond expanding the OPIF funds now will position projects to commit to their projects and take advantage of these incentives to start spending money in our communities.

The loss, or uncertainty, of these incentives in the future will drastically slow the momentum of the industry as we move forward, especially in our rural regions that are just now seeing more and more industry activity. Current projects in planning for our active programs are watching this closely as they pencil in their plans to produce their works in our region, state -- or, elsewhere.

Please **vote YES on HB 3244** to expand OPIF and increase media production jobs and spending in our state.

Regards,

Christopher Jennings

Festival Director
Eastern Oregon Film Festival
112 Depot Street
La Grande, Oregon 97850