

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
March 19, 2021

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing to ask 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 am an indie film Producer and have benefitted from all aspects of the incentive for both local, small Producers and much larger projects like Netflix and more. My small, indie film, Here Awhile, was made using the incentive money set aside for fostering local talent and could not have been made without it. I was able to find distribution for the film and it is now available in the US and Great Britain, just hitting Hulu last week. I could not have made the film without the support of these incentives, which not only gave me a leg up as a Producer working their way up in the industry, but also employed 18-20 people. My yearly income is highly dependent upon the number of projects able to come to our State and the more projects that are able to film here, the more we will be able to support our film and television crews for year round employment. Currently, most people in our industry have 1-3 periods of unemployment per year based off of the number of projects able to come to the state before the cap on funds is exhausted. As I am sure you can understand, once the incentive money runs out, productions look to other locales with much higher or uncapped incentives for filming and our Oregon crews are left on unemployment. We can look to places like New Mexico and Georgia for success stories on how these types of programs impact employment and the economy.

The considerable amount of money that had to be turned away at the last auction is a clear indication that a higher cap would be welcomed by Oregon residents as well as our industry which could greatly use the support. I urge you to vote YES to provide living wage jobs to a growing industry and to keep the generous amount of money spent by productions flowing through our state at a time when small businesses really need more people staying in hotels, eating our amazing food and traveling to every corner of our beautiful state.

Again, please vote YES on HB 3244 to expand OPIF and increase media production jobs and spending in our state.

Regards,
Alyssa Roehrenbeck
Producer/Owner
Mini Elk Media