

March 20, 2021

“Number of NEW TV shows currently sits at 900 this year, 1200 expected next year and Over 2000= a year projected by 2025” from a conversation I had with Nicholas Pepper a very successful producer/creator. (these numbers don’t even include movies) These projects have to film somewhere, and our State deserves the work and the revenue, and the additional tourism revenue that follows for years after a project.

Therefore I am writing in support of increasing the Film Incentive to at least \$20M a year. Personally and professionally I would like this to increase by \$2M a year to align with the growth mentioned above.

I am an actor and stunt performer and my husband is a stunt coordinator. I am also the current President of the Portland Local SAG-AFTRA chapter. We have lived in Oregon almost our entire lives. We currently reside in St. Helens in Columbia County. St. Helens is a great example of the economic benefits to our state. Over 20 years ago Halloweentown starring Debbie Reynolds was filmed there. The city and community STILL benefit from the production, thousands of tourists come from all over the world in October to visit. The businesses and residents rely on this and are eager for more. Investing in film production helps so many businesses, restaurants, hotels, retail, lumber yards, and more. And after Covid we NEED to help our tourism and hospitality industries and smaller retail businesses to recover, and the film industry is key to that.

THE MONEY STAYS HERE! And the return on investing into this industry is enormous. We have worked with hundreds of decision makers and creatives that love Oregon, love our crews, love our talent and would film every project here if we had the incentives that other states offer. My husband has been Christian Kanes stunt double through Leverage and Librarians, and currently they are filming Leverage 2.0 in New Orleans. Why? Incentive money....PERIOD. (Did you know that the more actors and stunt performers we employ here results in years of income from residuals that continue to pump tax revenue into the state long after the project leaves.)

In addition to everything I’ve said above we have a very involved group of industry stewards that are working as a team to ensure that our growth is supported and that we uphold a high level of integrity as we grow. This is our livelihood and our film family. We take care of each other. We are WORTH it and our State DESERVES it!

Respectfully,

Michelle & Lex Damis