

DESERT ISLAND STUDIOS

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Senate Finance and Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

January 27, 2021

Dear Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES on SB43 pertaining to labor rebates and tax credits for media production.

I am an actor/producer and co-founder of Desert Island Studios. Some recent local independent film projects include *See Me*, premiering at the 2021 Portland International Film Festival, and Dawn Jones Redstone's proof-of-concept for her feature film *Noelia*. I've also produced commercial content for clients like Metro and Clone-A-Willy.

For the past six months, I've been working on developing a way to include diversity as part of the film tax incentives program. I am currently collaborating with other media professionals/advocates to conduct research that would provide the data needed to support these efforts. The incentive program attracts film work to Oregon which creates jobs, stimulates industry activity, and helps establish the state as having a vibrant and growing film community. As my work to increase diversity in Oregon's film industry continues, it will be vital that the incentive program exists as another tool and method of support for marginalized media makers who aren't afforded as many opportunities.

Please vote YES on SB43 to extend these critical programs for our local production industry. It supports my livelihood and advocacy work.

Cheers,

Ashley Mellinger

Co-founder

Desert Island Studios

Portland, Oregon