

Elsewhere Films

January 27, 2021

Gary Kout Producer, Elsewhere Films Founder, Film Southern Oregon Member, OMPA & DGA Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee.

On behalf of the entire Southern Oregon Film community, I'm writing to urge you to **vote YES on SB43** to continue to fund the Oregon Production Investment Fund (OPIF).

As a producer on multiple feature films shot in Southern Oregon that have received OPIF rebates, starting in 2005 with *Conversations with God* all the way up to the recently released *Phoenix, Oregon*, I am intimately familiar with the profound effect the Oregon film incentives have had on our production community.

Thanks to the crucial boost that the OPIF funds have provided to films in Southern Oregon, we have been able to employ scores of professional film crew members and actors, and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars at local businesses.

This consistent slate of content has also enabled Southern Oregon to develop an excellent national reputation for film and media production, as evidenced by our 8th consecutive appearance on MovieMaker Magazine's annual list of Best Places to Live and Work as a Filmmaker.

Without these crucial programs, expertly managed by the Oregon Film Office, I truly believe that our region, indeed the whole state, will see a measurable loss of production activity.

Please vote YES on SB43 to extend these critical programs for our local production industry.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

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