



February 8, 2022

Attn: House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Testimony in support of HB4153

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

My name is Todd Looby. I am the Executive Director of BendFilm located in Bend, OR, Deschutes County. I am writing to provide testimony in support of the Creative Opportunity Fund and I urge you to support the passage of HB4153.

BendFilm has worked closely with the Oregon Film Office directly and supports its Oregon Made Creative Foundation and Pathways initiatives to increase the creation of Oregon-made films by local filmmakers, creating job opportunities for artists—especially underrepresented artists. BendFilm hosts similar and complementary programs that help bolster BendFilm’s local economic impact and its national profile which encourages more artistic investment in Bend and the surrounding rural communities.

The 2021 winner of BendFilm’s similar initiative recently remarked of the program:

“When I wrote my first short film ‘Julia’, the idea of fully producing the film seemed impossible. Receiving the ‘Tell Your Story’ grant through Oregon Made Creative Foundation is what enabled Julia to launch into pre-production, and finally allowed me to tell my mother’s story of hardship growing up in a South Korean orphanage. After filming, I received Bend Film Festival’s BIPOC Women Film Production Grant, which provided the funding we needed to finish up post- production. Making this film would not have been possible without these grants. I’m so thankful for the support I’ve been given to amplify underrepresented voices, and think it is crucial to uplift other filmmakers to do the same through film grants.” -

Emma Duvall, JULIA Director, Recipient of 2021 BIPOC Woman Grant.

Thank you for the kind consideration of our request to support HB4153.

Sincerely,

Todd Looby
Executive Director
BendFilm
P: 541.388.3378
Email: todd@bendfilm.org