



Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dan Eason, and I am the general manager of Vision Stages - a film, TV, and commercial studio in Troutdale. I am working with Mount Hood Community College to establish a workforce development program for the Integrated Media students to get real life "on set" experience with network TV shows, commercials, and feature films at Vision Stages. I support HB4153 because it is essential to making the workforce training and internship programs possible.

When I went to film school at Drexel University in Philadelphia, I participated in the co-op internship program that landed me a job in post-production straight out of college in New York City. Having real life production experience on my resume rather than just a college degree was the advantage that I needed to get well-paid work in a highly competitive industry.

I see the need for expanding the workforce in the Oregon film industry today as multiple studios want to film here at the same time, but we can only accommodate so much with limited skilled labor. HB4153 will provide opportunity for safety training, mentorship programs, and job-placement in an industry that has a very high economic impact to ancillary local industries. Film and television production is an emerging industry that pays very well at entry level positions, which is exactly what our workforce needs. The more we can strengthen the film industry infrastructure, the more job security there are for not only the local film crews, but also the restaurant workers, security companies, hotels, cleaners, hardware shops, and clothing stores that benefit from the economic impact of multiple studio productions.

In addition, the skills that are taught in these workforce development programs with a focus on film and TV also apply to many other industries. Certifications for Covid safety, equipment training, and software trainings related to film can be applied to many other industries that are often required to collaborate with for larger well-funded productions.

HB4153 will provide training and job-placement opportunities for both film and TV related positions as well as many other skilled trades associated with special event productions like commercials, weddings, concerts, and advertisement campaigns.