Submitter: cdavid cottrill

On Behalf Of: Oregon Film and Video Office

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Measure: SB5524

I am writing in support of the renewal of the office budget for the Oregon Film & Video Office (“the OFVO”) for the 2023-2025 biennium. The work of this office, led by Tim Williams is vital to the Digital Media/Motion Picture Industry in the State. Not only does the office work to attract large feature, animation and episodic/streaming projects into Oregon, but they also help foster an ecosystem that supports the smaller budget, independent film, digital content, and video projects made by Oregon storytellers. OFVO supports the full spectrum of media production. providing opportunities for training of the next generation of storytellers. Those looking to enter the industry are provided with a paid, one day training, a paid internship as a Production Assistant on a professional production, a mentor on the project, and aa long term mentor to assist them with future employment and professional development through Oregon Media Pathways. Oregon Film has been a key stakeholder and project administrator for Pathways, helping ensure that participants, employers, and mentors have a positive, safe and productive experience. OFCV staff works with the Portland Office of Events and Film, Portland Metro, as well as towns and counties across the state to ensure solid communication and positive engagement with productions coming to these locales. The Office also promotes projects #MadeInOregon in the press, and through partners like Travel Oregon, as well as promoting the city, county and locations used in the production process. A benefit of some of these productions is tourism interest leading to direct spending in these communities for hotels, rental cars, food, and more. The OFVO amplifies and enhances this tourism with the Oregon Film Trail, providing informational plaques at key locations of projects filmed in Oregon . We are lucky to have a strong and connected Office of Film & Video which works hard to foster the continued growth and support of this statewide industry which in turn brings local businesses revenue and Oregon workers living wage jobs. The OFVO has worked closely. With the State Film Offices in Washington and Montana to help bolster regional industry connections and impact. I have had the pleasure of working with Tim Williams and the staff of this Office closely during my time as the Business Agent for IATSE Local 488, Studio Mechanics of the Pacific Northwest (the Union representing Craftspeople behind the cameras) and as a Board Member of the Oregon Media Production Association (OMPA). I urge the renewal of the budget of the Oregon Film & Video Office for the 2023-2025 biennium so that they may continue to nurture and grow a sustainable Motion Picture and Digital media Production ecosystem to produce important stories with Oregonian storytellers..
Thank you.