Submitter: Ashley Song

On Behalf Of: Desert Island Studios

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

Measure: SB5524

Dear Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

As a minority small business owner, I'm writing to urge you to approve the 2023-25 operating budget for the Oregon Film and Video Office. The office's existence is vital to maintaining and growing a strong media production industry here in Oregon.

Founded in 2016 by me and filmmaker Joe Bowden, Desert Island Studios is a mission driven Asian American owned media production studio, rental facility, and co-working space that focuses on supporting underrepresented creatives. Oregon Film is instrumental to driving jobs and economic spending to the state and maintaining the strong production ecosystem that creates more opportunities for the communities we support.

Some things Oregon Film has helped facilitate:

- Promoting Oregon as a film destination and securing commitments from productions to film in the state.
- Strengthening our global reputation and developing repeat clients.
- Administering the incentive program effectively and efficiently, all while guiding local production workforce who might be new to the incentives process.
- Partnering with local organizations on creative, business and workforce development efforts.
- Supporting local businesses like mine that create community and uplift the work of underrepresented creatives.

Not only does a strong production industry here in Oregon have economic benefits to the state, but it also has the added benefit of positively branding our state. We put beautiful images and stories on screen that help shape a narrative of Oregon that we can be proud of. Our industry also supports so many other economic sectors - hospitality, travel, advertising, etc. This undeniably helps benefit the state's industry at large.

Please approve the 2023-25 operating budget for the Oregon Film and Video Office and help ensure our local film and television industry remains strong and competitive and can continue to have a positive impact on the state overall.

Cheers,

Ashley Song
Co-owner
Desert Island Studios