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**Subject: Testimony in Support of Increasing Total Tax Credits for Certified Film Production Development Contributions to OPIF**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I have been a proud member of Oregon's film community for 25 years. I chose to raise my family here—not in Los Angeles or Atlanta—because the opportunities provided by our local industry allowed me to build a sustainable career. This is not just my story; it is the story of countless artists and crew members who have made Oregon home because our industry has given them a livelihood.

Eighteen years ago, I founded a small acting school for young artists, *Acting for Kids and Teens*. That school grew into a thriving business, expanding to serve adult actors, providing workshops, mentorships, and community support. Oregon's film industry gave me the chance to become a producer and, eventually, an Emmy-winning director. The very commercial I won for—featuring the Portland Trail Blazers—was filled with student actors from right here in Oregon.

Today, I am directing my first feature film, a \$6.3 million production, here in Oregon—one that was originally set to shoot in Atlanta. I fought to keep it here because I believe in our film community. We work hard. We care about one another. We raise our families here instead of uprooting our lives for bigger industry hubs. And every time a film is made in Oregon, it spills millions of dollars into our local economy—creating jobs, sustaining businesses, and keeping our community thriving.

But we are at a crossroads. COVID, the strikes, and now the devastating fires in LA have left artists and small businesses struggling. The film industry in Oregon can only survive if we remain competitive. Productions must consider their bottom line, and without increased incentives, they will go elsewhere. Raising the total tax credits available for certified film production development contributions will ensure that more projects choose Oregon—creating jobs, revitalizing our economy, and telling the world that we value our professional artists and their ability to provide for their families.

Think of your favorite movie—the one that made you cry, laugh, or changed the way you see the world. Now, think of the people who made that possible. We are those people. We work tirelessly to bring stories to life, to create moments of escape, joy, and connection. Supporting this measure isn't just an investment in film—it's an investment in the people who make Oregon vibrant, resilient, and artistically rich. It's an investment in our families. Our livelihood. In art.

I urge you to support this increase. Oregon's creative economy depends on it.

Sincerely,



Katie O'Grady  
Emmy-Winning Director | Producer | Small Business Owner