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# BUCCANEER FILMS, INC.

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February 6, 2020

Maryland House of Delegates  
Ways and Means Committee Hearing Room  
House Office Building Room 131  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**SUBJECT: HB 565 INCOME TAX – BUSINESS and ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS – TERMINATION – AS  
INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020**

Dear Delegates:

**Buccaneer Films, Inc. strongly opposes HB 565**, as scheduled to be heard on February 12, 2020, which would terminate tax credits and film incentive programs vital to keeping job opportunities in Maryland and in increasing Maryland's position as a sought-out location in the film and television industry.

Over the past 5 years I've produced one long running series and 2 miniseries for HBO which could have been filmed in Maryland but went elsewhere due to financial incentives. While I am opposed to tax credits and other incentives in general, as long as states are offering them, Maryland must as well to remain competitive. As the technological capabilities of computer generated information and other digital graphics increase, the need to film where the story takes place is diminished. That's why you now have locales with vastly different terrain all competing for the same film projects.

**HB 565 will eliminate job opportunities and money spent with local businesses.**

According to the Maryland Department of Commerce, between 2010 and present, the film and television industry hired over 20,000 Marylanders; did business with over 18,000 Maryland businesses; created a projected economic impact of one billion dollars.

In addition to the economic benefits of an ongoing Maryland film industry, we need to preserve the pipeline for training and eventual employment for students of the many top notch film programs in our state. Without an active film community, these graduates will need to take their talents elsewhere in order to work, and our universities will be unable to offer the hands on, experiential training in order to keep their programs competitive. Film productions also employ and train people for whom college is not an option. And it offers a unique opportunity to witness a diverse group of people working towards a

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common goal- and being judged for the quality of their work rather than their race, gender, or class. I can think of no better remedy to the frustration and low self esteem so rampant in our youth today, and I would look to increase our internship program and other community outreach activities if by opposing HB 565, we can once again consider Maryland for our projects now in development.

Planning for both motion picture and television productions typically occur several years in advance, and our productions rely on the certainty that the incentives will remain available as location and budgetary decisions are made. HB 565 seeks to sunset important tax credits and film incentive programs on July 1, 2020.

We must preserve and grow an industry that creates middle-class jobs and supports our local economy. We must keep Maryland competitive with other states offering tax credits and film incentive programs.

For these reasons, we ask that you **OPPOSE HB 565**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NK Noble". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Nina K. Noble, Executive Producer and Maryland resident

Buccaneer Films, Inc.