

J O H N W A T E R S

Chair Anne Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 6, 2020

RE: HB565 OPPOSE

Dear Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

My name is John Waters, and every movie I have ever written and directed has been filmed in Maryland.

I have seen this industry suffer in Maryland because of the lack of a steady, consistent incentive program- in 2018 the state delivered a steady program and now wants to eliminate it in 2023 which doesn't make sense.

Maryland has an excellent base of movie making infrastructure including local talent and film crews who have suffered due to the lack of steady incentives and in recent years been able to count on having work again in Maryland. If the credits are eliminated, Maryland will lose. Jobs will be lost, businesses that work with the industry will lose.

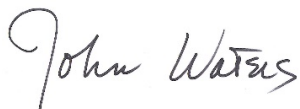
Once a film production company commits to Maryland, they start spending money right away in office supply stores, hotels, building supply stores, storage buildings, security companies, landscape nurseries, restaurants, recording facilities, antique stores and lighting supply houses. They pay permit fees, they rent cars, houses, locations, parking lots and most importantly they hire our local crew and actors.

All of this money is spent before the tax credits are issued.

I'm not an economist, but I have experience with making movies and know first-hand how the film industry spends money in Maryland. I do know that the respected economists at the Regional Economic Studies Institute in Towson did a study and reported that for every \$1.00 the state spends in tax credits, it gets \$1.03 back in taxes, and \$3.69 is spread around the economy. It's a good deal for Maryland and it is time to grow the industry, not get rid of it.

I am writing to ask that you do not eliminate the film tax credit program!

Best,



John Waters

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