

Mid Atlantic Studio Mechanics and Broadcast Technicians

I.A.T.S.E. Local 487

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House Ways and Means Committee

HB 565 - Income Tax - Business and Economic Development Tax Credits - Termination

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

This Bill seek to Sunset the current issuance of tax credit certificates for qualified Film and Television productions in 2023. Currently there is no Sunset provision on the credit. While we take no issue with the rest of the Bill we respectfully request that the Bill be amended and the Film Production Activity Tax Credit be removed from consideration.

Edward Hohman
President

Should the Sunset provision continue in the Bill it would send a message to the Film Television Industry of uncertainty. Film productions are often planned a year or more in advance and Television series can go on for years. Should this Sunset provision pass it would be the Funding of the credit would be uncertain and these Productions would go elsewhere. These credits, offered by many other States and Countries would seem more attractive due to their more robust and long term programs.

Paul Thomas
Vice President
Southern Region

The Film Production Tax credit has proven its' worth by furthering good jobs and creating new ones here in the State of Maryland. It also brings pride, prestige and an influx of money that would not otherwise be spent here. Money that is spent again and again with Maryland companies purchasing goods and services, not just related to a particular project but by the individual Marylanders who work on and benefit from these productions.

Michael Key
Vice President
Northern Region

When we have appeared before legislative committees we have always spoken of good wages and health and retirement benefits that result from this program. Thousands of Marylanders are working, earning and spending money, in their communities and receiving health and retirement benefits for their families.

Ellen Popiel
Secretary/Treasurer

David M. O'Ferrall
Business Agent

As in any business, reputation is everything and the technicians, crew and talent here in Maryland have established themselves as amongst the best in the world. This isn't about supporting Corporations or celebrities – This is about supporting the working men and women of Maryland who rely upon the Motion Picture and Television industry to support themselves and their families. It creates jobs; not just those created specifically on the production but those peripheral jobs as well. Unlike some of the other Tax Credits NOT A SINGLE DOLLAR GOES OUT UNTIL AN AUDIT OF ALL QUALIFIED MARYLAND EXPENDITURES HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Allowing the current language to remain in House Bill 565 will send a message to this Industry that Maryland is not committed to growing and creating good jobs here in Maryland and we ask that if you support the Bill that you amend it to remove the Film Production Activity Tax Credit.

David M. O'Ferrall
Business Agent

Metropolitan Baltimore
Council
AFL-CIO Unions

Maryland State & DC
AFL-CIO

Metropolitan Washington
Council
AFL-CIO

Virginia State
AFL-CIO