

February 17, 2023

Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, 3W
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB452-SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

The importance of film production in the state of Maryland continues to be essential to our economy. In the past Maryland has been host to hundreds of films and projects ranging from *The Wire*, *House of Cards*, and *VEEP* to *Ping Pong Summer*, *Diner*, and most recently, *We Own this City*. These iconic films and television series have brought thousands of jobs and millions of dollars into our economy. The incentive program that Maryland has provided in years past has created a true draw for filmmakers and production companies and it is of utmost importance that this program continue and grow to help support this integral part of our economy.

According to the February 10, 2014 study prepared by the Regional Economics Studies Institute (RESI):

- For every reported \$1 claimed in film tax credits, Maryland gains \$1.03 in total additional property, sales, income, and other tax revenues
- Additional output Maryland receives from every \$1 claimed under the current program is \$3.69.

According to the Maryland Department of Commerce, from 2011-2022 Film and Television Productions:

- Hired over 22,443 Marylanders
- Did business with over 24,002 Maryland businesses
- Created a projected economic impact of well over **\$1.2 Billion**.

These jobs are high-paying career positions, with most providing health and pension benefits. We have many major universities within the state of Maryland that have robust Film Programs as a field of study. These students are then able to stay in Maryland and secure career jobs to continue to grow our economy and create within our state.

I have worked to provide insurance for film productions over the past fifteen years. Over the course of my career, I've worked with hundreds of student filmmakers working on senior thesis projects for a MD University (Towson, Stevenson, Johns Hopkins, Morgan State, etc). I've seen these students return as professionals to create a film/television series in Maryland to take advantage of the available tax credits. These creators want to stay in Maryland and showcase our beautiful state in their projects. The businesses most impacted by the additional revenue of the productions are small, local businesses!

SB452 **requires no upfront funding** and is given to productions only after the production is finished, the money has been spent, qualified spending has been approved, and a tax return has been filed.

As you review the bill today, please understand the importance of Film and Television production in Maryland. Take into account the stories and personal experiences that you hear today. This bill requires no upfront funding and creates the opportunity for thousands of jobs and millions in tax dollars for Maryland. Stability and predictability of the program are critical to ensuring that Film and Television remain in Maryland!

Sincerely,

Meghan Coleman

Meghan Coleman, CLCS, AAI
Arts Insurance Program Manager
meghan-coleman@mdpins.com
410-547-3183