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**James “Byrd” Mitchell**

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February 16, 2023

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

Dear Senate,

My name is Byrd and I own a production company “Byrds eye View” and recently opened a soundstage called “ The BirdHouse Studios”. We have a film school where we teach youth & adults how to shoot commercials, short films, videos & photography. This summer we plan to revamp our film summer camp. We truly believe we can save lives just by showing them we can make it here and not have to leave to be successful. Baltimore feels hopeless because we need more resources, opportunities and need to see “a success story”. Somebody they seen put in work from the ground up. It is critical to support our local talent & content creators because that’s all we got. When you own your content you own your future. We can shape the future into a better place with vivid visuals. Show more positively in the world because all we see is death here. We give the people a chance when we show the opportunity, not just say it. You can talk til you blue in the face but when you show them visuals....Everytime makes sense.

Sincerely,

**James “Byrd” Mitchell**