

BALTIMORE FILM OFFICE

February 20, 2023

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

RE: SB452-SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

As Director of the Baltimore Film Office at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, I'm writing to offer support of SB452.

Increasing the annual allotment of tax credits for film production in the state will create more jobs for crew, talent and opportunities for students and other entry level positions as well as diverse economic spend for businesses of all sizes throughout Maryland. This program pays for itself, and the state does not refund one dime of tax credits until all of the filming activity is over, money is spent and the books are audited.

The industry is shovel ready through any kind of economy. When the Covid pandemic hit, studios and labor leaders created strict protocols in order to get people back to work and to also address the need for content. In late 2020 and through 2021, commercials, independent films, a Disney/FX pilot and an HBO miniseries filmed in Maryland putting our crew and actors back to work and supporting both large and small businesses during a time they really needed it. 2022 brought an Apple TV miniseries and the first season of a new Taylor Sheridan (*Yellowstone*) series called *Lioness* which was filmed in nine counties across the state.

Several times a month, my office and the state film office receive calls from studio executives and producers looking to bring their movies or television series to Maryland. Unfortunately, we continue to tell them that the \$12 million program is closed because the annual credits have been allotted. And that's a shame, because Maryland is losing millions of dollars of economic impact to other states and the revenue for small businesses and jobs that a robust film industry brings.

We are in a position to grow this industry and SB452 will do just that. Please give SB452 a favorable report at the levels introduced.

Sincerely,



Debra Donaldson Dorsey
Director, Baltimore Film Office