

STATEMENT FOR HEARING

SB907 Maryland Film Office - Entertainment and Film Funding Grant Program - Establishment

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. For the record, I am Senator Johnny Ray Salling and I would like to ask for your support and consider SB907 for your approval.

Throughout the years, Maryland has been a host to many production companies to film movies and television shows. Most notably are House of Cards, The Wire, The West Wing, St. Elmo's Fire, Patriot Games, and Wedding Crashers.

This bill will give our Governor the option to set aside \$5 million in the budget to assist with the production costs of entertainment and film projects in the State. A maximum of \$200,000 will be used for every qualifying project until the total \$5 million is exhausted.

I have put forth an amendment to change the language of the bill from "shall" to "may" to ensure that this bill is not a mandate for Governor Moore's administration. This bill will give many artists an opportunity to complete their projects and give Maryland an opportunity to be showcased on the world's stage. This bill received a unanimous vote in the Budget and Taxation Committee and on the Senate floor.

I ask you for a favorable vote for this bill