

MARYLAND FILM FESTIVAL
& SNF PARKWAY THEATRE
BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Lorenzo
Board Chair

Lynn Rauch
Vice Chair

Michael Mandel
Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Cronin
*Designated Member –
Executive Committee*

Ed Bernard

Ronald J. Daniels

Gwen Davidson

Jed Dietz
Founding Executive Director

Ramona Diaz

Camille Blake Fall

Suzan Garabedian

Tad Glenn

Samuel Hoi

Doug Mann

Jim Mollica

Elissa Blount Moorhead

Adam Riess

Paula Rome

Andy Schuleman

Scot Spencer

Thiru Vignarajah

John Waters

Jim Webster

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

February 19, 2020

RE:SB718 SUPPORT

I'm writing as the Executive Director of the Maryland Film Festival (MdFF), an independent 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that owns and operates an historic 1915 movie theater and film center in the Station North Arts and Entertainment District of Central Baltimore, Maryland, to support Senate Bill 718.

Our mission at MdFF is to bring films, filmmakers and audiences together, creating unforgettable cultural and film experiences for our community and contributing to the dialogue and thought leadership about filmmaking globally. Whether new, emerging or established voices, we present an ever diverse and expanding array of storytellers and stories that may not otherwise come to Baltimore, to Maryland, and form a critical part of film culture and the evolving arts and film landscape in our state. We work closely with the growing number of filmmakers - from students to emerging and established content creators, who make their homes and their films in Maryland - and promote the extraordinary talent, film production services and resources that have contributed to the burgeoning film industry in our state.

We believe it's critical to increase the Maryland Film Production Activity Tax Credit to at least \$20 million to grow and sustain the burgeoning film industry in which we've invested in Maryland. More productions generate more jobs and significant revenue to the state's economy. A thriving film industry in Maryland has an enormous economic impact and is important to the state's economic and community development, quality of life, and sustainability.

The Maryland Film Production Activity Tax Credit, which is capped at \$10 million, has been a tremendous success. We have enjoyed great economic benefits from film production in the State of Maryland over the last several years with the passage of the Film Production Activity Tax Credit. With the tax credit there is no upfront funding, and the credit pays for itself with economic benefits and consistent employment for the finely developed talent pool in Maryland, who pay taxes and contribute to our thriving economy.

The Maryland Film Production Tax Credit secured the first four seasons of the award-winning HBO series *Veep*, the groundbreaking Netflix series *House of Cards*, as well as



PO BOX 13246 • BALTIMORE, MD 21203
410-752-8083 • MDFILMFEST.COM

MARYLAND FILM FESTIVAL
& SNF PARKWAY THEATRE
BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Lorenzo
Board Chair

Lynn Rauch
Vice Chair

Michael Mandel
Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Cronin
*Designated Member –
Executive Committee*

Ed Bernard

Ronald J. Daniels

Gwen Davidson

Jed Dietz
Founding Executive Director

Ramona Diaz

Camille Blake Fall

Suzan Garabedian

Tad Glenn

Samuel Hoi

Doug Mann

Jim Mollica

Elissa Blount Moorhead

Adam Riess

Paula Rome

Andy Schuleman

Scot Spencer

Thiru Vignarajah

John Waters

Jim Webster

the Independent Films: *Better Living Thru Chemistry*, *Jamesy Boy* and *Ping Pong Summer*. These productions are projected to have an economic impact of nearly \$900 million for the State of Maryland.

Season 4 of the *Veep* resulted in the local hiring of 1,315 Maryland crew, cast and extras, and the production purchased or rented goods or services from 1,066 Maryland vendors.

Season 5 of *House of Cards* completed 134 days of filming on February 14, 2017, received a tax credit of \$7,047,304.00 and had an economic impact of over \$129 million over the 4 plus months of film production in Maryland. The production hired 341 local technicians and 1,468 local actors/extras. In addition, the production company provided business for 1,757 local Maryland companies, vendors and contractors.

Season 6 of *House of Cards* resulted in the local hiring of 1,640 Maryland crew, cast and extras, and the production purchased or rented goods and services from 1,736 Maryland vendors.

We respectfully request that you give SB718 a favorable report and pass the bill out of committee at the proposed level. Thank you for your continued support of the film industry. We greatly appreciate your efforts to ensure continued employment opportunities for the filmmaking talent now residing in the state and the significant economic impact derived from film production for years to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Gibson
Executive Director

