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Chair Anne Kaiser
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 12, 2020

RE:HB565

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland Film Industry Coalition is an alliance of business and labor leaders, educational institutions and individuals who work together to improve the business conditions for the film industry in the state of Maryland.

We have worked with this committee for over ten years to develop a film incentive program and most recently in the 2018 session were happy to get a film incentive in place that provides credits to both large and small productions. The best part of this new program is that studio decision makers and producers can plan ahead for long term series and films in development knowing that Maryland has a program with certainty and one without a sunset.

This is a tax credit program that works and delivers what it was created to do.

The Maryland Film Production Activity Tax Credit is extremely transparent and the rebate is not awarded until all film production expenses are completed and receipts and expenditures are audited. The economic benefit and tax revenue is delivered to the state well before the state delivers the rebate- in fact, this program creates more tax revenue than it costs the state. According to respected economists from the Regional Economic Studies Institute in Towson, \$1.03 of assorted tax revenue is collected for every \$1.00 of tax credits paid out, and again this tax revenue is collected first and the \$1.00 of tax credits puts \$3.69 into the economy well before tax credits are issued.

By eliminating or sun-setting the program, this certainty is eliminated. By eliminating the program, Maryland will lose the film industry-lose tax revenue, jobs and economic benefits.

Please keep the film production activity tax credit in place and not terminate it in 2023.

Respectfully yours,


Robert Middleton
Chair, MFIC


Debra Donaldson Dorsey
Chair, Government Relations
Committee, MFIC