



February 12, 2020

House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: HB565

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Distinguished Committee Members:

I'm Lance Lewman and I'm a full-time working actor and voice-over performer and Maryland resident. My wife is an actor and my son is an actor. My parents, life-long Marylanders, also made their living as TV personalities, beginning with Mom and Dad's show together "What's New with the Lewmans," to Dad's days as Pete the Pirate on WBAL-TV, and later as busy voiceover performers - narrating National programs and thousands of political spots. I'm writing and offering oral testimony today to urge you to oppose HB565, or at least the elimination of The Film Production Activity Tax Credit.

Supporting the growth of the film and television industry is the right thing to do for the state, and for job creation - for not only the more than 4,000 professional SAG-AFTRA members I represent here today, but hundreds of IATSE production crew members, Teamster drivers, DGA assistant directors, and countless other support workers. It is of huge import to Maryland small business owners across the state as well - the folks who supply rental cars, antiques, lumber, paint, costumes, hair and makeup and more.

Importantly, this tax credit isn't like any other. It's not a subsidy; it's a rebate. After **millions** of dollars are spent in Maryland, and a thorough audit of those expenditures is conducted, a small portion is returned to the production company.

Our members earn health insurance and pension through the union, and as such, are not a burden to the state **as long as work is available**. Further, actors' salaries provide a healthy source of tax revenue to the state on an on-going basis. Not only is the original salary taxed, but actors get additional payments (residuals) when the film is streamed, distributed in foreign markets,



or airs on cable TV. These residuals provide years of continuous tax revenue to Maryland.

Maryland has diverse and versatile locations, a terrific film office staff, an experienced crew base, Teamster drivers, and a very talented pool of professional union actors. With popular TV and film made here in Maryland not only does the Maryland film community thrive, but local business revenues and tourism will flourish. We just need the films to come, and for that to happen we need you to **keep** this program... nurture it, expand it, and Maryland will reap ever-growing substantial rewards for decades to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Lewman".

Lance Lewman

President, Washington-Mid Atlantic Local
SAG-AFTRA