

To: The Maryland House Ways and Means Committee

From: Michael E. Davis

RE: House Bill 565

I am a Construction Coordinator for film and television production and a member of the I. A. T. S. E. Mid-Atlantic Studio Mechanics & Broadcast Technicians Local 487. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 46 and have lived in Baltimore City for 42 years. I have spent 32 of those years working on film and television, mostly in Maryland and Washington D.C. as well as other states in the Northeast, Midwest and the South.

My local crew is a diverse collection of trades-people, artisans and artists including carpenters, cabinetmakers, scenic painters, plasterers, sculptors, welders and landscapers. We depend on the film industry to make a living wage and to provide health insurance for our families as well as retirement benefits.

During times when there is no film production work many of our members look for work in residential and commercial construction, house painting and other work that does not pay nearly as well and rarely provides health insurance or retirement benefits. Many of us work on film and television productions outside of Maryland when there is no work at home. From January to Mid-October of 2019 I worked on television production in Chicago, Illinois with two of my Foremen and a Decorator from Maryland. During that time I stayed in touch with many of my Maryland crew who spent most of last year working in Massachusetts, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Thankfully we are all now working on a Showtime Pilot at home in Maryland that started pre-production in late October and will keep most of us employed through Mid-April. Hopefully the production company will be happy with the pilot and re-hire us all back sometime in May or June to film the show as a multi-episodic series.

For the sake of the many Maryland men and women who depend on employment in the film industry and the many local vendors that film productions purchase from, please vote against the part of HB565 which seeks to eliminate the film tax credit program FY2023.