

February 12, 2020
House Ways and Means Committee
HB 565 - Income Tax - Business and Economic Development Tax Credits - Termination

My name is Lorenzo Millan and I am writing you about HB0565.

I currently work in the area as a Production Sound Mixer making movies and television, commercials, documentaries, and the like. I was born in Baltimore and other than a few years in New York City for my university studies have remained in the area. My wife, our two children and I have made our home in the Baltimore area.

I began my work in the film industry almost 25 years ago as a boom operator (the person with the pole and the microphone over the actors head) on the NBC tv show Homicide: Life on the Street and continued that work through the HBO productions Shot in The Heart, The Corner, Something the Lord Made, The Wire, and Veep. In 2012 I became a production sound mixer. That year I mixed the movie Better Living Through Chemistry which was filmed on location in Annapolis.. I also took over as sound mixer halfway through the first season of the Netflix show House of Cards. I was able to work on the rest of the series and garnered four Emmy nominations and one win for sound mixing on episode #14, the first episode of season 2. After the end of the series I was able to work on 2nd Unit of Wonder Woman 1984 and mixed the independent films Really Love and Charm City Kings. I will also be mixing the pilot for Showtime, The President is Missing which will be filmed in Baltimore in March of this year. With luck it will become a series, made in our state.

I am writing because I am very concerned about HB0565 because of what it may do to the film industry here in Maryland and it will affect my my ability to support my family and make a life here where I was born. I understand the concern of unmerited incentives, but I don't know if you understand the impact this bill could have on a large group of people. If the incentives were to disappear, I would have to move, along with between 500 to 1000 people who would no longer have a viable way to make a good living, be able to afford health insurance, and take care of their families. I remember back in the late 2000's when the incentives disappeared after The Wire ended. I came close to losing my home, my livelihood, my health care. If the incentive program goes away, then my union co-workers and I will be in the same boat. The loss of health insurance alone would be extremely impactful to my family and I. My son has Hemophilia A, which has the most expensive continuous treatment regimen that exists. He is treated at Johns Hopkins Hemophilia Treatment Center, which is one of the best in the country. I cannot afford his medication, which fortunately with co-pay assistance programs and my union health insurance is covered. He uses approximately \$120,000 a year in prescriptions for prophylaxis alone.

The other impact is in-state spending by residents like me who make a good living from work brought here through these incentives. I know what the studies say the return is to the state, but I would disagree with those reports. First off, most people working on these productions are Marylanders and as such are paying state taxes on their income. We all spend our income in-

state. My home mortgage is with SECU of MD. I purchase my paint from Budeke's as do all the movie productions who come into the state. I try to buy as much as I can from local establishments (favorite ice cream, JJ Hoffman's in Hampstead, favorite restaurant Café Spice in Cockeysville, etc). These are all small local businesses that benefit from our impact. Not to mention the hotel chains, rental car companies, lumber yards and all the other locally owned and operated business that service the needs of productions that decide to film in our state.

I understand the belief that giving money to out of town production companies seems unsavory, grabbing the state's money. But I believe the benefit for the state is bigger. The state actually gets a greater return than cost of incentives either from like me paying state taxes and spending in state, or by business making money from the productions and paying state taxes.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Millan
Production Sound Mixer
IATSE Local 487

I would be happy to speak to you whenever or wherever. I think I can add a point of view that you may not have heard from.