



February 4, 2022

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

RE: HB432-SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in support of HB432, which will increase the annual amount of tax credits available for film production in Maryland.

Serious Grip & Electric is the only locally owned motion picture lighting rental company in Maryland. We are based in Halethorpe and have been family owned since 1983. Serious Grip & Electric works throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, mostly in Baltimore and Washington, DC.

Serious Grip is a union shop, I.A.T.S.E. Studio Mechanics Local 487 ([iatse487.org](http://iatse487.org)), and all of our employees support themselves and their families by working in our shop and on film sets as grips and lighting technicians. We all work extensively on productions attracted to the area by previous Film Production Tax Credit Bills.

Most of the productions for which Serious Grip furnishes equipment are commercial advertising and industrials, which aren't covered by film production incentives, but we are constantly told by clients coming from other states that the crews they hire in Maryland are among the best they've ever worked with. When large productions film in Maryland, non-incentivized and smaller productions coming to the region are able to hire skilled and hard-working crews. In the past, when Maryland did not have film production incentives, a lot of talented crew moved away to

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markets with more work, making it a challenge for productions coming to Maryland to find skilled crews. Production companies don't come back if they can't find skilled crew.

The vast majority of film crew people in Maryland are union members, college graduates, homeowners, parents, artists, and musicians. We have deep roots in our communities, and want those communities to grow and prosper. Using Film Production Tax Credits to continue attracting large productions to Maryland keeps Serious Grip and our employees in business, maintains a skilled crew base of talented artists, and allows us to maintain a thriving community of film families in Maryland.

On behalf of Serious Grip & Electric and the working film families of Maryland, I urge you please to support and give a favorable report to HB432.

Respectfully,

Daniel Stack  
President & Owner  
Serious Grip & Electric, inc.  
[www.seriousgrip.com](http://www.seriousgrip.com)

[dan@seriousgrip.com](mailto:dan@seriousgrip.com)  
410-242-6124 (o)  
410-925-9472 (m)