



February 7, 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,

The Maryland Tourism Coalition is in support of HB432, which will increase the annual amount of tax credits available for film production in Maryland.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition is the statewide trade association that represents the all sectors of the tourism industry. The Film & the Arts also fall under the Maryland Office of Tourism, a division of the Department of Commerce. COVID 19 has devastated the tourism industry as well as the workforce. The number of jobs fell from 150,000 jobs to just 104,000.

By increasing film production activity in the state of Maryland, you are also increasing long term hotel stays, catering sales for onsite meal service, the need for tenting and rental services from local businesses and more. Hence, resulting in a need for more workforce at all these location. Not to mention the production crew will also visit local restaurants and attractions during downtime that can result in return visitation with friends and family once production has closed.

Fans of said TV show or movie filmed here, will also want to visit Maryland. *Runaway Bride*, released in 1999, was filmed in Berlin, Maryland. Today, 23 years later, visitors specifically come to Berlin to see where the movie was filmed and tours are still a top attraction of this Maryland small town.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition asks to please give HB432 a favorable report, etc.

Thank you in advance and if you have any question, please feel free to contact me directly at 336-254-4648 or ruth@mdtourism.org

Sincerely,

Ruth Toomey

Ruth Toomey

Executive Director, Maryland Tourism Coalition