



College of Fine Arts and
Communication
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001

February 7, 2023

*Chair Atterbeary and Members of the
House Ways and Means Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

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

Thank you for your current support and advocacy to increase film and television production activity in the state of Maryland. I am the Dean of the Towson University College of Fine Arts and Communication and am writing to urge you to support and sign into law -HB 270 which will increase the annual amount of available tax credits to \$25 million in FY 24 and to \$50 million in FY 25 and each year thereafter. My interest in this important legislation change is motivated by a desire to find a way to keep our young filmmakers, actors, crew and writers to stay in Maryland upon their graduation. For your information one of Towson University's fastest growing majors is our Bachelor of Fine Arts in Electronic Media and Film. (EMF). Most of our students peruse programs that prepare them for work in film production, screenwriting and a number are branching out into animation and other types of digital media work.

While some opportunities for broadcast journalism (especially sports broadcasting) are becoming available in the state, along with some TV commercial work, many of our graduates who are interested in filmmaking (crew, audio technician, directing, post production, etc.) in years past have had to leave the area to find employment in film and television production. My colleagues and I at Towson University would very much like to keep talented Marylanders here with high-paying career options with health and pension benefits.

Because we know that post-pandemic college graduates are looking for stability and predictability in their income and their work lives, I feel strongly that the extensions to HB 270 will help the state to become not only a destination for Film and television production, but also a wonderful place to live and work for the talented and creative graduates from our programs in Arts, Communication and Media. We are working hard to make connections with our K-12 programs - and it has become clear that pre-college students are highly motivated by potential careers in these areas. Indeed, we are creating numerous points of outreach with K-12 schools and working to align our programs and curriculum to launch programs in new media and communications - all of which we believe will lead to a stronger workforce for Marylanders.

For many years I lived and worked in New Mexico, a state with a robust tax credit program for film production. In 5 short years, the landscape of the state changed dramatically with important community and university outreach programs sponsored by major film production and streaming companies. This can and should and should be happening in Maryland. I urge you to continue your excellent advocacy for increased film and television production activity in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Regina Carlow, Ph.D.

Dean Towson University College of Fine Arts and Communication.

