

HB0472 Letter of Support - Maryland Theatrical Pro

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HIPPODROME
THEATRE *at the*
FRANCE-MERRICK
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

March 27, 2026

Dear Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 472 and the renewal of the Maryland Theatrical Production Tax Credit. This program has already demonstrated clear, measurable benefits for Baltimore, Maryland's workforce, and the national theatrical industry, and its continuation is critical to sustaining that momentum.

Since the implementation of the tax credit, Maryland has become a premier launch location for major theatrical productions. Recent launches have included the return of *The Phantom of the Opera* to the United States—bringing Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Sir Cameron Mackintosh to Baltimore—the pre-Broadway launch of *The Wiz*, which first premiered in Baltimore in 1974, and the national tour launches of the *& Juliet*, *Annie*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Life of Pi*, and *Water for Elephants*. Three additional tours already scheduled for the 2026–2027 season with more anticipated beyond that. These productions would not have launched in Maryland without this program.

The economic impact has been significant and direct. To date, these productions have generated:

\$2.2 million in gross pre-tax wages
\$634,000 in union benefits
\$250,000 in employer-paid payroll taxes

Looking ahead, currently scheduled productions are expected to generate an additional:

\$866,000 in gross pre-tax wages
\$263,000 in benefits
\$100,000 in employer-paid payroll taxes

These earnings extend well beyond the theatre. Workers spend their income locally on housing, food, transportation, healthcare, and other essential goods and services, creating meaningful downstream economic activity throughout the region.

Just as importantly, this program has positioned Baltimore as a nationally recognized starting point for Broadway tours. Producers, general managers, and touring companies consistently report positive experiences here, and there is growing enthusiasm across the industry for launching productions in Maryland. This reputation strengthens the state's cultural profile and attracts world-class talent and investment.

The benefits also reach Maryland residents directly. Local audiences gain early access to major productions, and hundreds of students are invited to attend dress rehearsals at no cost—often their first exposure to live theatre—helping to inspire the next generation of artists and audiences.



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The Maryland Theatrical Production Tax Credit is a proven, high-return investment. It creates jobs, supports organized labor, generates tax revenue, and elevates Maryland's standing in a competitive national industry.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 472 and ensure the continuation of this successful program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Mahan
Vice President
France-Merrick Performing Arts Center

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Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

Affiliated with the National AFL-CIO

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HB 472 - Income Tax - Theatrical Production Tax Credit - Sunset Extension

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

March 31, 2026

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 472. On behalf of our 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 472 simply extends the Theatrical Production Tax Credit, a program modeled on the highly successful Film Activity Tax Credit and built with the same transparency, accountability, and clear economic benefits for Maryland workers, small businesses, and communities.

By extending the sunset, HB 472 provides the stability and predictability that the theatrical industry thrives on and needs to make long-term commitments. This stability keeps the sector a strong economic engine—strengthening small businesses, supporting family-sustaining careers, and boosting local and state economies. This legislation encourages continued investment and keeps Maryland competitive.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 472.



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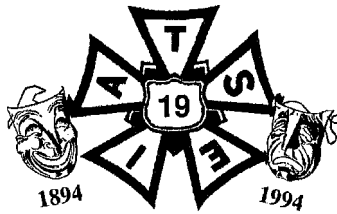
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BALTIMORE LOCAL No.19

**International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians,
Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO-CLC**



March 27, 2026

**Michael Mixer, Business Agent
I.A.T.S.E. Local #19
P.O. Box 50098
Baltimore, MD 21211**

Members of the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 472

Dear Chairperson Guzzone and Senate Committee Members:

I write to enthusiastically support the proposed extension of the Theatrical Production Tax Credit (House Bill 472). The extension of the tax credit will provide much-needed future work opportunities for Local 19 stagehands.

As the proud Business Agent of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local #19 in Baltimore, Maryland, I represent a diverse group of skilled men and women who perform technical work backstage in theaters and at other related venues throughout Maryland.

Since this credit has been in place over the past two years, I have seen an increase in work and wages for our house heads and assistants—the essential workers who rig lights, build sets, and keep shows running smoothly. More productions mean more jobs and better pay, putting real money into the pockets of our members during these tough economic times with rising costs.

Beyond the wages, the credit has brought slower, more methodical productions that give our union time to train new members. This hands-on mentorship is critical—it builds skills, creates

career paths, and strengthens Maryland's talent pool for the long term. I have watched apprentices become more confident stagehands thanks to this opportunity.

Without extending the credit, we risk losing projects to other states and leaving hardworking families struggling. Prior to this tax credit, we saw theatrical production companies make the business decision to take their theatrical production and technical rehearsal work out of state to jurisdictions where tax credits were available. Extending tax credits like this in Maryland encourages theatrical production companies to do more business in Maryland.

House Bill 472 is a smart investment: it drives jobs, revenue, tourism, and keeps dollars here in Maryland. I respectfully request that your committee give this bill a favorable recommendation to the General Assembly.

Very truly yours,

Baltimore Stagehands Local 19

Michael Mixer

**Michael Mixer, Business Agent
(businessagent19@gmail.com)**