



# MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

## Maryland Senate Bill 388 and House Bill 898

February 12, 2026

Dear Senator Ferguson, Representative Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the General Assembly,

The Motion Picture Association<sup>1</sup> serves as the global voice and advocates for the motion picture, television, and streaming industries. We work to protect and advance the creative economy, safeguard content across all platforms, and support innovative distribution models that expand viewing choices for audiences worldwide.

I am writing to express our strong support for the provisions of the DECADE Act (SB 388 / HB 898) that improve Maryland's production incentive program by modernizing administration and increasing flexibility. While the current bills do not extend the program's sunset, we strongly encourage the General Assembly to consider doing so. Extending the sunset would provide long-term certainty for the industry and allow producers and studios to plan multi-year projects with confidence, make sustained investments in Maryland-based infrastructure and workforce development, and more effectively compete with neighboring states that offer predictable, multi-year incentive programs.

We also support removing the current \$10 million cap, which will better position Maryland to attract larger film and television projects and series that generate substantial economic activity, long-term employment, and increased tax revenue across the state.

Maryland's film and television industry has long been a powerful driver of economic development, job creation, and small business growth across the state. Recent productions have demonstrated the economic impact our industry delivers, including a major production Governor Moore highlighted that infused approximately \$9.4 million into Maryland's economy.<sup>2</sup>

Our member studios support thousands of local jobs, from skilled crew members and technicians to hospitality workers, caterers, transportation providers, and small business owners. They generate substantial tax revenue, promote tourism, and showcase Maryland's diverse communities and landscapes to audiences around the world.

We further appreciate the bill's recognition of the need for flexibility when projects expand during production, including through additional episodes or increased in-state filming. The ability to increase an applicant's initial requested amount is essential to capturing these

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<sup>1</sup>The MPA's member studios are Netflix Studios, LLC; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., and Amazon Studios LLC.

<sup>2</sup> Gov. Wes Moore on Monday touted the expected \$9.4 million economic impact of the film *They Fight*, which wrapped filming in Maryland, reported by *The Baltimore Sun*.

opportunities. However, we respectfully recommend that applicants not be required to wait until the conclusion of production and an auditor's review to seek such adjustments, as this creates significant financial risk if program funds become oversubscribed. We encourage allowing applicants to apply for updated estimated amounts as soon as they are prepared to revise their claims during the production process.

In addition, while not expressly addressed in the bill, we encourage consideration of increasing the current \$500,000 per-position cap included in "total direct costs," for example, to \$1 million per position, to reflect the realities of modern production budgets. We also recommend granting the Maryland Film Office and the Authority reasonable discretion to adjust this cap for qualifying projects in accordance with criteria established by regulation. This flexibility would further enhance Maryland's competitiveness, particularly in coordination with the removal of per-episode limitations.

Maryland has earned a well-deserved reputation as a film-friendly state through thoughtful policy, strong partnerships, and sustained investment in its creative workforce. By strengthening and preserving the state's commitment to this industry through the DECADE Act, the General Assembly can build on this success, attract new projects, and reinforce Maryland's position as a leader in the creative economy.

Continued support for the film and television industry sends a clear message that Maryland welcomes production investment, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.

Thank you for your leadership and continued dedication to policies that strengthen our economy and support working families. I respectfully urge you to support the film and television provisions of the DECADE Act and consider the enhancements outlined above.

Sincerely,

*Renata Colbert*

Renata Colbert

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