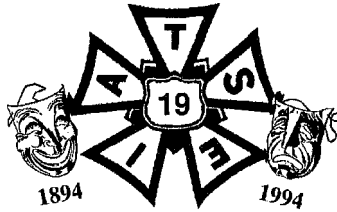


BALTIMORE LOCAL No.19

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



March 23, 2026

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

Members of the Maryland House Ways & Means Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 440

Dear Chairperson Wilkins and House Committee Members:

I write to enthusiastically support the proposed extension of the Theatrical Production Tax Credit (Senate Bill 440). 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.

At home, this increased work means food on the dinner table for our members—your neighbors in Baltimore and across the state. 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.

Senate Bill 440 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 Mixter

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