

IATSE 209

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Ohio Senate Bill 37, Film Tax Credit

Interested Party Testimony of James Marniella, Esq.

On Behalf of Ohio I.A.T.S.E Local 209

Senate Ways and Means Committee

March 5, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding SB 37, the Film Tax Credit on behalf of I.A.T.S.E. Local 209 which is part of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and represents Studio Mechanics throughout the State of Ohio. Local 209 has over 370 members that work in many different departments of the Film and Television Industry in a multitude of productions throughout the state of Ohio including; construction, wardrobe, studio teachers, location manager, props, video assist and more.

We support of extending the eligibility for and making other changes to the motion picture tax credit. We support the testimony that urges the committee to increase the tax credit from \$40 million to *\$100 million a year*. Ohio needs to increase the annual tax credit to remain competitive with other states around the country.

We also support a cap such as the \$5 million cap per project Ohio once required. Many states throughout the country have similar caps. A cap avoids the possibility of as little as one or just a few productions capturing all available dollars-- therefore providing more opportunities for available work. In ensuring more productions and available work, a cap would provide more opportunities for increased investment in Ohio. Suggested legislative language:

“At any time, not more than five million dollars of tax credit maybe allowed per tax credit eligible production year.”

I.A.T.S.E Local 209 also supports a tax credit that is higher for in-state resident wage production expenditures than non-wage and nonresident wage production expenditures (as Ohio also once required and other states currently have). This requirement which had been successful in the past will help our workers- the Ohio workers. Suggested legislative language:

“If the total budgeted eligible production expenditures stated in the application submitted or the actual eligible production expenditures finally determined whichever is least, is greater than three hundred thousand dollars, the credit equals the sum of the following, twenty five per cent of the least of such budgeted or actual eligible expenditure amounts excluding budgeted or actual expenditure amounts for resident cast and crew wages; thirty five percent of budgeted or actual eligible expenditures for resident cast and crew wages

We appreciate the chance to provide our perspective and I would be happy to answer your questions at this time.

