



Proponent Testimony for SB 37
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Ty Sutton, President & CEO, Victoria Theatre Association
March 5, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Ty Sutton and I am the President & CEO of Victoria Theatre Association. Victoria Theatre Association (VTA), located in the heart of downtown Dayton, is one of city's premier not-for-profit arts organizations. We present more than 300 performances for all ages and interests each year, including touring Broadway, comedians, concerts, films, and family shows. We operate and maintain the Benjamin & Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, Victoria Theatre, Metropolitan Arts Center (home of The Loft Theatre) and PNC Arts Annex for the benefit of the community and the arts organizations that use them. We also own and operate Citilites at the Schuster and The Arts Garage.

On behalf of VTA, I urge your support of Senate Bill 37-- the extension of the Ohio's Motion Picture Tax Credit to include theater.

Nearly half a million people attended performances and events last year in our facilities. We currently have an economic impact on the region of more than \$28.6 million.

VTA's facilities and programs are undeniably recognized in recruiting businesses and top-level talent to the Dayton region. More than 105,000 children and adults attended Education & Engagement programs last year. More than 27,000 students from 14 counties and 92 school districts experienced live theatre through VTA programs.

Extending Ohio's Motion Picture Tax Credit to include theatre will open the door for opportunities not only for VTA but theatres in every corner of the State of Ohio. Our Miami Valley community is rich with high quality, state-of-the art facilities, a robust workforce and supportive audiences. Extending the tax credit to include theatre would help us leverage these tremendous assets to drive even more in economic development than we are currently.

Positioning Ohio to become a launch site for Pre-Broadway productions, national tours and productions staying in our cities for longer runs will have significant positive impact on our communities. This will create jobs, drive employment for our labor force and return dollars to our economy.

Our state has the country's fourth largest interstate system of 8,000 miles and Ohio's centralized geographic location nationally makes it efficient for routing tours.

Let's not continue to allow other states to enjoy the benefits that result from this tax credit for live theatre. Our communities will benefit both artistically and economically.

I ask your strong consideration to pass Senate Bill 37.