



March 3, 2019

Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Terhar, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams,

I am writing to you today in a continued conversation about the support of future generations of students from the Ohio State University and other such academic institutions who would benefit by the conversations surrounding Senate Bill 37.

A primary goal of The Ohio State University Film Studies Program is to make sure every student who graduates from one of our programs does so with hands on field experience so they have the competitive edge needed to succeed. A large part of making the next generation of successful independent filmmakers, video editors, screenwriters, and film scholars is to make sure they can participate in a thriving culture that speaks to motion pictures as an economic driver and art form with identifiable local pathways to build a career.

Given our shared missions, I would strongly urge you and your colleagues to consider the proposed amendments from the Greater Columbus Film Commission as they are focused on building long standing economic impact through the creation of jobs and the raising of the tide for an entertainment industry across the entire state. I can speak for myself as well as many students and educators from the many colleges and universities in Central Ohio when I say that the next generation of entertainment career professionals are excited about the possibilities that are developing around the state but much as the amendments proposed state, more can be done to secure the future of the entire state as a film and entertainment production destination.

- Eliminate SB37's "live theater" provision(s) pending continued conversations and research to better understand the impact such a change would have on the main focus of the credit, which is motion pictures. States such as New York, Rhode Island, Illinois and California have live theater tax credits that are not attached to the motion picture tax credit. Attaching the "live theater" provision to the OMPTC doesn't make sense for Ohio;
- Expansion of the tax credit to \$100 million;
- Clearly define the proposed economic impact study in SB37 that should focus on the creation of new, high-paying jobs and film industry company creation much like the Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit or Third Frontier Program. The goal here is to not simply reward the recruitment of out of state companies and workers gaining the benefit of the tax credit for short-term productions;
- Establish an above-the-line cap to ensure the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit program is not consumed in total or in large part by large, out of state motion picture companies, actors, producers, and directors but instead focuses on developing Ohio film and production companies and local productions of entertainment products;

- Establish a statewide formula for spending of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit program much like the Ohio Public Works Commission that distributes funding evenly across Ohio and does not concentrate the spending in only a handful of Ohio communities;

Ultimately, we believe that the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit should be developed and maintained to grow the industry statewide, benefiting those companies that live in Ohio, pay taxes in Ohio, and recruit, hire and retain talent in Ohio. While promoting Ohio as a viable state for visiting and local film productions and building local infrastructure, the state will become more attractive to year-round production projects, which, in turn, accomplishes our goal statewide. By accomplishing these goals, we create more opportunities for the next generation of college graduates to both live and work in our great state of Ohio.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Swift, 3/3/2019  
Program Coordinator, Instructor, Internship Advisor  
OSU Film Studies Program