

Jeff Fisher, Cincinnati Ohio

Chairman Matt Dolan, Vice Chair Dave Burke, Ranking Minority Member Vernon Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jeff Fisher. I am from Cincinnati, and I am a Key Grip in the motion picture industry. I've been working in this industry for over 20 years. I am here to strongly support the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit program.

The motion picture tax incentives are essential in providing jobs to the many Ohio taxpayers who either work in media production or run a business that works with the motion picture industry. In the past, I had to travel out of state. After starting my family, it became important for me to find work close to home. For over 6 years, I have been able to keep almost all of that employment in the state of Ohio. New talent is moving to the region and the local labor force has been able to rise into leadership roles.

Yes, people are excited and star struck to have a movie or tv series being filmed in their city, but on a serious note, this isn't all fun and games. This is our livelihood. It's how we support our families. If the Motion Picture Tax Credit is not renewed, I am certain I'm left with little alternative but to leave the state for employment. That means I must leave my wife to work and raise the kids alone; perhaps we would even have to relocate to another state. We simply do not have enough commercial work in the Cincinnati area to make a living.

With the motion picture tax credit renewed, we will bring greater economic development to the state. We are at a critical juncture. Ohio has been wise in its development of this tax credit, and it would be a shame to see the plug pulled on a growing industry that not only supports those of us in the movie business, but countless businesses across the state who profit from the work we do here.

I ask you to consider my testimony and reconsider the elimination of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.