

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF

**Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators**  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

**Studio Mechanics Local Union No. 209**



May 23, 2019  
Senate Finance Committee  
Interested Party, H.B. No. 166-Operating Budget - Motion Picture Tax Credit  
By Russ Faust, I.A.T.S.E. Local 209

Chairman Dolan, and Members of the Committee:

I.A.T.S.E. is the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and is a member of the AFL-CIO. We represent Studio Mechanics throughout the State of Ohio. This writing is in our full support of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit.

Since the inception of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, our membership has nearly tripled. Obviously, this increase is a result of the influx of production business and jobs that have been brought to Ohio. The skilled Technicians and Artisans that fill these jobs have grown up here, moved from elsewhere, or have come from many of the Ohio Colleges and Universities that provide Film, Video, and Media training Programs. In fact, Local 209 has offered many training programs within its membership to advance the safety and expertise of those wanting to work within this field. We rely on the Motion Picture Tax Credit to ensure these jobs and training for our current workforce, and the future Ohio workforce in this Industry.

Local 209 members operate in many different aspects of the Film and Television Industry on a multitude of productions. Our jobs include, but are not limited to, construction, wardrobe, locations, hair and make-up, set lighting and rigging, props and video assist – just to name a few. Given these disciplines, and the materials and accommodations each requires, we work very closely with vendors and suppliers. The outreach of this distribution of funds is felt well outside of our industry alone. From lumber to fabric; equipment rentals to caterers; dry cleaners to bakers; and hardware to hotels, we source all of our goods and services in Ohio. It is a fact that the Motion Picture Tax Credit program lays the bedrock for an ecosystem of economical development throughout the state of Ohio. Studies clearly reflect the economic benefits.

All states strive to make themselves attractive to businesses and the Motion Picture Industry should be no exception. The Tax Credit program keeps Ohio competitive with other states. Without the program these business endeavors will, without a doubt, locate elsewhere. Producers raise their capital across the nation, and then spend it here. If the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit program is not extended, it will certainly harm Ohio's economy. Thousands of jobs could be affected. Furthermore, most members of Local 209's membership, as well as other trade personnel, will move to where they can find work. Filmmaking, and all that it encompasses, is what we do. Like coal miners mine, we make movies. Without the Tax Credit program, we will pack up our families, and we will go to where the work is.

We at I.A.T.S.E. Local 209 firmly support our lawmakers and the political process. As we stand behind your governance, we believe in your reasoning and resolve based on your understanding of the importance of this program. We strongly encourage and support the extension the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit and its inclusion in the state-operating budget.

We earnestly thank you for your time and consideration in this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,

The Sisters and Brothers of The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees  
Studio Mechanics, Local 209