

Mr. Speaker,

My name is Joseph Quinn, I am a filmmaker and producer, and I live in Cleveland. I moved to Ohio in the Fall of 2015 to get my start in the film industry. I'm not a native Ohio resident. I was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia and grew up in Washington, D.C., before I went to study film at Syracuse University in New York. After I left school, I decided that North East Ohio was the place to go to further my career in film production. Simply put, I would not live in Ohio if not for the Motion Picture Tax Credit.

Many have asked me "Why Ohio? Why not LA or New York?" the answer is because I knew that I could get the education and continued work that I needed right here; and I love living here, and I am proud to call Ohio my home. (In my opinion, the people tend to be much nicer in the Midwest than in Washington.)

The Motion Picture Tax Credit has created training programs for certifiable skills in Film and Media Production, for Ohio residents. I believe these programs are some of the best and most intensive in the country. I have personally witnessed aspiring filmmakers develop into true industry professionals, and I've been proud to call many of them my friends.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) recently reported that nearly 35,500 people are directly and indirectly employed by the film and media industries in Ohio. That's not just lights, cameras, and actors; its hotels, restaurants, caterers, rental services, dry cleaners, carpenters... It's Bob Buckeye.

The Motion Picture Tax Credit has created close to 5,000 direct jobs, almost a thousand of which are full-time equivalent, with total wages earned exceeding \$1.2 billion, and leading to over \$572 million in economic impact to the state of Ohio. Without it, thousands of people will be forced to look out of state for work. Not just people like me who moved to Ohio for film production, but industry professionals born and raised here. We will have to leave our homes and families to continue our careers. We don't want to move!

Since moving to Ohio, I have been involved in the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival (CDDFF). CDDFF was founded ten years ago in honor of a young documentary filmmaker named David Ponce, who tragically succumbed to Leukemia in the Fall of 2006. David was born and raised in Ohio. He went to film school in California, worked at Nickelodeon, and shot his first

film in South Africa. He always wanted to come back to Ohio. He believed the Ohio film industry could rival New York's. I believe that's possible, too. We just have to give it the chance.

Unfortunately, our progress is stalled by the limited opportunity provided by the current \$40 million credit. Over 300 productions have filmed in Ohio since 2007, but that number that could be much higher. Dozens of film productions have been turned away due to how quickly the Motion Picture Tax Credit is applied each year. Ohio has lost around \$2 billion in revenue from productions that were forced to go to other states. These are productions that all actively wanted to come to Ohio and would have employed Ohio Residents... but couldn't. Among these productions are the Marvel films *Captain America: Civil War*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and *Avengers: Endgame*, all directed by a couple of Ohio natives, Joe and Anthony Russo. Those three movies have grossed a collective of over \$5.8 billion at the worldwide box office, and they could've been made right here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to reconsider House Bill 166. An income tax break is admirable, but it should not come at the cost of thousands of jobs. The Ohio Film Industry is lucrative and thriving, and you can help it grow even stronger.

Sincerely,

Joseph Quinn