

OHIO STATE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING

Testimony by Celia C. Peters (artisticfreedomltd@gmail.com | 614 636 1577)

My name is Celia C. Peters and I am an independent filmmaker and a native Toledoan. My production company, Artistic Freedom Ltd. is based in Columbus and we are currently developing my science fiction feature film GODSPEED for production in Columbus and potentially other locations in the state of Ohio. I am here to advocate most strongly for the continuation and expansion of the OMPTC.

The Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit is a crucial incentive for attracting productions and filmmakers of all kinds to this state. Whether established or emerging or somewhere in-between, there are more and more filmmakers at all levels creating film....and they are all spending money. I was based in NYC for several years, and I have many professional relationships there. I can personally attest to the fact that producing film on the East Coast is often exorbitant and thus cost prohibitive. The state of Ohio offers a very viable, very attractive alternative. Ohio has plentiful resources (both material and human resources), plus the costs of production are much lower here. Production tax credits are an integral part of a producer's calculations when putting a film budget together. From the point of view of an independent producer, the tax credit gives qualifying projects the ability to demonstrate an immediate return, which is extremely helpful in talks with investors.

Technology has revolutionized how film is made and distributed --- and continues to do so on a regular basis. The model for film production in this country has definitively shifted from a bicoastal model to a decentralized one. Filmmakers now make film where they can get the best deals --- and as we saw several years ago in the State of Michigan, not only do incentives attract individual film productions, production companies WILL relocate to areas that are the most supportive. This tax credit gives Ohio a competitive edge.

Independent film is the lifeblood of the industry. Growing the independent film community will be key to establishing a world-class film industry in the state of Ohio and in the city of Columbus. The OMPTC is an absolutely critical tool for

attracting those productions and keeping them here. That means thousands of jobs and transformative growth for Ohioans, and the creation of a thriving new industry that will continue to grow and blossom for decades to come.

Ohio has a legacy of producing iconic creative innovators. I implore you to support the Ohio's entertainment production industry, both for the growth of the state's economy and the enrichment of the industry that I love. Thank you for time, I am available for any questions.