May 23, 2019

Chairman Dolan

Vice Chair Dave Burke

Ranking Member Vernon Sykes

Members of the Senate Finance Committee

My name is Robert Bryan and I am the Executive Director of Television & Video Services at Cuyahoga Community College. This letter is my request that this committee consider restoring the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit into the H.B. 166 operating budget.

Since the tax credit inception in 2009, Cuyahoga Community College has focused on providing education and training for students wanting a career in the motion picture industry. We have collaborated with the Greater Cleveland Film Commission, IATSE and independent film professionals to create the type of graduates that have the skillset for an entry-level position in the growing Ohio film industry.

We are not alone. Cleveland State University, Kenyon College and The Ohio State University have all developed training programs for students to become technically proficient in the skilled film trades. Filmmaking is an industry that is dependent upon people with specific technical skills, and our graduates fill those roles**.**

The entertainment meccas of Los Angeles, Toronto, New York and Atlanta continue to thrive due to the talent pool of trades available to staff these productions. And now Northeast Ohio is showing promise in this area. Greater Cleveland has hosted a variety of significant productions by both independent and historic film houses. Because of this the local economy has benefitted significantly from the tourism, and hospitality food and beverage dollars spent in the City of Cleveland. As for Cuyahoga Community College’s Media Arts program, we are seeing the largest student enrollment in the programs history. A large number of the graduates from this program are currently working in the industry. When making your decision, Please take into consideration the number of Film and Television production graduates from Ohio’s Universities and Community Colleges that enter the workforce each year.

Ohio has an opportunity to invest in its creative capital, and also its educational institutions and local economies. By restoring the tax credit , it will allow the state of Ohio to become a viable player in the motion picture industry for years to come.

Thank you,

Robert Bryan

Executive Director

Television & Creative Services

Cuyahoga Community College