



Andrew Myers
EVP Distribution and Production
Good Deed Entertainment
141 E Main St
Ashland OH 44805

Andrew Myers Testimony for the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as an interested party on SB 4, specifically on the matter to modify the film and theater tax credit. My name is Andrew Myers, and I am a film producer and executive at Good Deed Entertainment, a brick-and-mortar film studio located in Ashland, Ohio. We moved our headquarters from Los Angeles to Ohio in 2018 specifically because we saw an opportunity to tap into the talent of the local filmmaking industry and to utilize the motion picture tax credit program.

We are currently in post-production on a miniseries that we shot right in Ashland Ohio last fall, and are currently preparing applications for several more projects to shoot this year. The Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit has been absolutely essential to being able to produce these projects in our own backyard. We primarily employ crew members coming from Columbus and Cleveland. Many of them are recent graduates from film programs at Ohio colleges, hungry for an opportunity to utilize their skills and gain new experience in the field and craft they love. They are eager to be able to work and live in Ohio, without having to move to another state in order to have the career they have trained for.

Although the current film production tax credits have been a cornerstone of our industry's growth, multiple issues are unfortunately currently working against the intent of the program. This bill would fix those problems. For example, applications for the tax credit are only accepted in two rounds, ending in January and July. But US film productions happen year round on timelines that rarely fit with Ohio's application calendar. We recently were in talks with a film producer who was eager to bring his almost three million dollar production to Ohio, but the application timeline was too slow to accommodate his need to shoot in the summer.

Similarly the forty million dollar annual cap on the tax credit breeds uncertainty for productions considering Ohio. Why apply for a *chance* to receive a tax credit in Ohio, they wonder, if they can easily go to another state like Georgia without a cap, that essentially guarantees the availability of a credit? Film production requires meticulous planning, and the current cap simply makes it harder to make solid plans to film in Ohio.

With this bill, Ohio can add flexibility and boost confidence in the motion picture tax credit. This is exactly what we need to continue growing Ohio's media industries and provide essential opportunities for our film production workforce.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to address any questions you might have.