

Testimony in Support of Section 122.85 in HB 96 — Expansion of Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit

To the Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today in support of **Section 122.85 of House Bill 96**, which proposes important updates to the **Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit**.

My name is **Erin O'Neill**, and I serve on **Marietta City Council**, representing the 4th Ward in Southeast Ohio. I also work in higher education and am a constituent of **Senator Brian Chavez (R-Marietta), District 30**. I am the founder of the newly forming **Mid-Ohio Valley Entertainment Commission (MOV Film)**, an initiative to position our region—Marietta, Washington County, and surrounding communities—to be ready for investment from the film and media industry.

My testimony today is offered specifically in support of **Section 122.85 of HB 96**, which would:

- Increase the annual tax credit cap from \$50 million to \$100 million,
- Broaden the definition of qualifying productions, and
- Support workforce development through a training and reimbursement program for Ohio residents in the film industry.

These changes directly align with the goals of my community and the work we are doing to attract productions to Southeast Ohio. Our region has historic riverfront neighborhoods, scenic landscapes, and a strong sense of place—assets that cannot be replicated on a soundstage. But without a competitive and accessible tax credit, we struggle to draw the attention of production companies.

Already, we are seeing interest. A filmmaker with industry success in New York and Los Angeles has returned to Southeast Ohio to develop several productions, including one with nationally recognized talent. This is not theoretical—this is already in motion. Section 122.85 would give us the tools to build on this momentum and make our region a real player in Ohio's creative economy.

Importantly, this effort has the strong support of the **City of Marietta, the Washington County Commissioners, and the Marietta-Washington County Convention and**

Visitors Bureau—all of whom recognize that smart, sustainable investment in the arts is also investment in local jobs, tourism, entrepreneurship, and civic pride.

At the same time, I'm engaged with leaders at the **Greater Columbus Film Commission** and the **Ohio Film Office** to ensure that regions like mine aren't overlooked as this industry grows. We're not just asking to be included—we're preparing to be ready. Section 122.85 ensures that the infrastructure, incentives, and visibility are in place for **all** of Ohio's communities to compete and thrive.

I support this legislation because it's smart. It focuses on impact. It modernizes the process. And it includes a geographic consideration that gives all Ohio communities—not just the big cities—a chance to participate in this opportunity.

I'm proud to speak for Southeast Ohio today. We've always had stories to tell. With Section 122.85 of HB 96, we just might get to tell them on a bigger stage.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin E. O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Erin" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "E." and "O'Neill". The signature is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Erin O'Neill

Councilwoman, 4th Ward – Marietta, Ohio

Founder, Mid-Ohio Valley Entertainment Commission

Constituent, Ohio Senate District 30 (Sen. Brian Chavez)