

Letter of Support in favor of Section 122.85 of H.B. 96

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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. As a small business owner and Ohio based filmmaker / producer the particular parts of this bill that will directly assist me and my colleagues are:

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

for Ohio residents in the film industry.

I will outline quickly in detail how these will directly effect me and how I conduct business in this state. I am a former recipient of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit and it single handedly made it possible for our film to be produced within Ohio's borders. Without it our investors would have not found an economically feasible way to invest the necessary resources to make this important feature length documentary film which will showcase what we are doing RIGHT inside the Ohio Prison System. The increase in the cap from 50 to 100 million would be a godsend to Ohio based filmmakers in our ability to produce high quality films that can compete at the global level. And as simply an economic driving force it allows me to pay a competitive rate of compensation to roughly 20-35 Ohio based employees who will work on the films and series I am currently trying to produce.

Broadening the definition of the qualifying productions will allow alternative media production in our state which again will do nothing but amplify our states incentive to lure these ventures from states that aren't willing to have the foresight to see how the market trends and changes will essentially

force these changes out of necessity. I for one would much rather be on the side of early adoption so that our state can have the massive economic output from these new medias.

In regards to the workforce development, I have a partner named Job Clarkson, and together we have qualified for the State of Ohio's only media apprenticeship program to date. Through this apprenticeship program we have developed curriculum for the pre-apprenticeship programming for ages 14-18, the apprenticeship programming for 18 and up, and also we have programming inside the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Center. This remarkable endeavor would benefit so greatly from this bill to bring access to film work force training to individuals who don't want to go through the traditional route of college and university, instead attend our programming to get them workforce ready in a matter of months not years.

We can do great things in our state that would only benefit us all economically and socially if we can come together and have the foresight to levy bi-partisan support in bills like these that make a whole lotta sense at all levels and for all of Ohio's citizens.

Sincerely,

Joshua H Clark