

Subject: Testimony in Support of Section 122.85 of House Bill 96 - Expanding the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit

03 JUN 25

To the Chair and members of the Committee:

My name is Gabriel Allan Tolliver and I am a filmmaker originally from Cleveland and also the Production Coordinator for Film Columbus.

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.

I am writing to express my strong support for Section 122.85 of House Bill 96, which expands the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit. I believe that funding this endeavor is crucial for the economic growth and cultural enrichment of the state of Ohio.

### **Representation Matters.**

The entertainment industry has long been concentrated in Los Angeles and New York City. Expanding the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit will provide an opportunity to diversify this landscape. It will foster regional representation, allowing stories to be told that reflect the unique character and culture of Ohio. This will give voice to underrepresented communities and provide authentic narratives that resonate with a broader audience.

### **Rising Costs, Climate Issues (Storms, Fires):**

The rising costs of production in traditional hubs, coupled with increasing climate-related disruptions such as storms and fires, have made it essential to explore alternative locations for film and television production. Ohio offers a stable environment with diverse landscapes and a supportive infrastructure, making it an attractive alternative. Expanding the tax credit will encourage productions to relocate to Ohio, mitigating these risks and ensuring the continuity of the industry.

## **Economic Viability of Creating a Film/TV Workforce and Ancillary Employment Benefits:**

Investing in the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit is an investment in the state's economy. Creating a film and television workforce in Ohio will generate numerous job opportunities, not only for those directly involved in production but also for ancillary industries. This includes sectors such as hospitality, transportation, construction, and catering. Furthermore, Ohio is also attracting significant investment in technology, such as Intel's "Silicon Heartland" project in the Columbus area, which involves building new chip fabrication plants. These developments create opportunities for collaboration and innovation, potentially linking the film and television industry with advancements in artificial intelligence and other tech sectors. This growth will stimulate local economies across the entire state boosting small businesses and fostering economic development.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the expansion of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit. This initiative will not only attract productions and create jobs but also enrich the state's cultural landscape and bolster its economic vitality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Gabriel allan Tolliver*  
Gabriel Allan Tolliver/

Filmmaker, 366th Creative Mothership Group  
Production Coordinator for Film Columbus