

BALTIMORE
OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS

December 19, 2019

RE: 10-1068R- SUPPORT

Baltimore City Council Taxation,
Finance and Economic Development Committee
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Members of the Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee,

My name is Debbie Dorsey and I am the Director of the Baltimore Film Office at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts. The Baltimore Film Office is the official liaison between filmmakers and city agencies, businesses, crew and communities and markets Baltimore as a first class location for film production.

Baltimore City has had a film office since 1979. Cities, states and countries create film offices for the purpose of economic development. While we take pride in seeing our city on the screen, we also take pride in the job creation and the enormous economic impact this industry brings to our city and state.

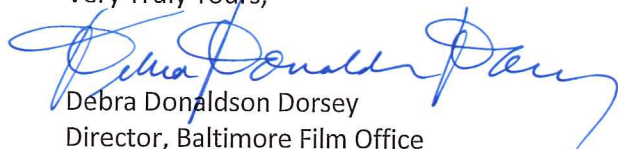
From 2011-2019 the film industry created an economic impact of over ONE BILLION DOLLARS in Maryland, with over 75% of that in Baltimore City. These productions range from major television series and feature films on one end to student films on the other with indies, commercials, documentaries, web series and music videos in between. During this same period, 20,000 Marylanders were hired. The Motion Picture Association of America estimates an average movie or television show spends \$250,000 dollars a day on location, much of this is for local salaries- the film industry creates opportunities for a diverse workforce to include accountants, truck drivers, camera, grip and electric crew, local actors and extras, office staff, wardrobe, hair and makeup, security... these jobs are well paying jobs with benefits.

Between 2011-2019 approximately 18,000 Maryland businesses were supported, since 2012 over 3,657 Baltimore City businesses benefited from the film industry. The industry supports a variety of businesses such as hotels, car, truck and equipment rentals, lumber, paint, fabric and furniture stores.

This film production activity is a result of the Maryland State Film Production Activity Tax Credit, which was created in 2011 and enhanced in subsequent years-always with the support of the Baltimore City Delegation. Currently, the program is tapped out, and we are turning productions away. In order to maintain and grow the industry, an increase in the annual available tax credit amount is necessary.

I sincerely thank Baltimore City for your continued support of this industry and ask for a favorable vote on this Council Resolution.

Very Truly Yours,



Debra Donaldson Dorsey
Director, Baltimore Film Office