

# Artless Media

December 5, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to support the creation of media production tax credits in the 2017 session of the General Assembly. Enacting these credits will remove a significant barrier to expanding the media production industry in Indiana. It will also help the many small businesses that provide services to the production industry.

I work in the film production industry, running a company that was a registered LLC in Bloomington, Indiana up until 2015. We loved working in Indiana, but ultimately moved our offices to California. When in production, depending on the size of the film project, my company regularly employs between ten and forty individuals. From drivers to technicians, actors to food service workers, our film production work relies on a vast variety of individuals with experience in different sectors. I started our business to make creative, risk-taking art that had a social impact, and I was able to achieve that while in Indiana. My company's films (made while my business was registered in the state of Indiana) screened all over the world (including films we were affiliated with premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival and Sundance), but we also felt a close connection and responsibility to the people of Indiana. We worked to further the work of young people in the state, often helping first time directors and students get their films finished.

Passing a tax credit bill is important to me and my industry because it will make Indiana competitive with other states. There are currently 30 to 35 states with some form of film and media production tax credit, making it difficult to compete for out-of-state work, or even to keep local work in-state. That is because most investors in media productions will not even consider financing projects in states without tax credits. They are unwilling to forego the business advantages tax credits bring to their bottom line. Ultimately, for my company, that has meant specifically looking for projects that are to be produced in states with tax credits.

This tax credit is also important to me because I would love to bring our production work back to the state of Indiana. There are multiple Indiana-based projects that have been pitched to my company since we left Indiana that, currently, do not make financial sense for us to fund. If this tax-credit bill passes, I will personally commit to our company shooting a feature in the state of Indiana within the next two years – and I would seriously consider having a production office based in Indiana.

A bill proposing a modest media production tax credit for Indiana will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session. I urge you to do all that you can to pass it. I know the General Assembly has prided itself on shaping tax policy to provide the best business climate possible in the state of Indiana. However, economic development in Indiana's media production industry has thus far been overlooked. You have the opportunity to fix that in the 2017 session.

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This is an important issue for me and my business, and I look forward to hearing whether you will support film production tax credits. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS' with a stylized flourish.

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