

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Karla Kurz Murray <karlakurz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:08 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz; Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: Alexander Page; Haddads; Karla Kurz Murray
Subject: Letter for Support for Multimedia Jobs Act

Testimony - Karla Kurz Murray

Multimedia Jobs Acts House Bills 4907 and 4908

PRO JOBS - PRO ECONOMY and PRO MICHIGAN !!

My name is Karla Kurz Murray and I'm a resident of Oakland County, Michigan. I serve as a board member for the Michigan Film and Industry Association (MIFIA) and also serve on it's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and I'd like to express my unwavering support for the Michigan Multimedia Jobs Acts - House Bills 4907 and 4908.

I started my film career in 1984 on a low-budget film shot in Michigan by (then) local director Sam Raimi. After that incredible experience I knew I found my calling and wanted to have a career in film production. However, only 1 other film came into town after we finished production and they were already crewed up so there wasn't any work for me and many of the other locals I had just finished working with. At that point I knew I had to move to a city that supported this creative, rewarding and lucrative industry. So, in 1986 I moved to Los Angeles and within 2 years was fortunate enough to be hired by another Michigander, mega-producer, Jerry Bruckheimer.

Flash forward about 23 years later, Michigan had implemented a film incentive and was getting a lot of national attention. I was thrilled to hear this news and wanted to move my family back to my home state and raise my two young teenagers in the Midwest.

Because of my connections in Hollywood I was hired by Film Detroit (division of the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau) as their Managing Director to bring film production to the Detroit Metropolitan area (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties). And boy did we! The economic impact was impressive, not only filling up hotels and restaurants but so many other ancillary local businesses. On average each film engaged the services of approximately 60 local vendors!!

This bipartisan "Multimedia Jobs Act" was designed to take the best from the last incentive, in addition to elements from some of the other 40+ successful state programs. But most notably; **it will create jobs, grow new business, support existing in-state business and labor, minimizes "Brain Drain" from our Universities creative and tech savvy graduates. In addition to promoting diversity and boosting tourism.**

This Multi-Media Jobs Act will encourage investment in our state and establish Michigan in the multimedia industry as "the place" to work, live and make home! Bringing more and more tax dollars to the state.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of House Bills 4907 and 4908. The Detroit Lions are back in the game and we should be too!

Sincerely,

~ Karla Kurz Murray
karlakurz@gmail.com

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Matthew Peach <mpeach@m-1studios.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 3:07 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: Page Alexander; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for HB 4907 & 4908

Matthew Peach
President / Producer
M-1 Studios
23452 Woodward Ave
Ferndale, MI 48220

Dear Nick,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Matthew Peach, and I am the founder and President at M-1 Studios, a dedicated multimedia production and post production company based in Ferndale, Michigan. Since our establishment in 2008, we have been committed to providing high-quality production services, contributing to the local economy, and fostering a vibrant creative community within our state.

Our team comprises a dozen full-time employees who benefit from comprehensive employment benefits and over twelve freelancers. These industry professionals have chosen to make Michigan their home, attracted by its potential and the promise of a growing multimedia industry. Despite facing significant challenges due to the lack of state support for our sector, we have managed to build and grow our business, testament to our resilience and commitment to excellence.

The introduction of House Bills 4907 and 4908, known collectively as the Multimedia Jobs Act, represents a pivotal moment for businesses like ours and for Michigan's economy at large. These bills propose to revitalize the state's film and multimedia incentive program, offering a new tax credit system that promises to attract significant investment, create jobs, and stimulate local economies across Michigan.

As a business owner who has navigated the complexities of our industry's landscape in Michigan for over a decade, I have firsthand experience of the challenges and opportunities that lie within the film and multimedia sector. We've been able to grow as a small business founded in 2008 with three people, into the Midwest's Top rated video agency and ranked in the top 20 globally on website clutch.co. We've been able to purchase our own building on Woodward Ave, something my grandfather would be very proud of as a life time Detroit. A solar roof has been installed, a podcast and motion capture studio space that we use for our own projects, and support a few out of productions a year when they come through the area.

M-1 is Michigan's only Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Union remote recording location. This gives us the unique insight to the number of Hollywood level talent that call this state their home. It's been eye opening to work with dozens of world class actors on films, video games and animations. But these are only for a few days at a time currently. To me, this shows that our state's quality of life is already attracting this top level talent, and having steady work will only bring more people back home.

The proposed legislation would not only provide a much-needed boost to businesses like M-1 Studios but also signal to industry professionals nationwide that Michigan is serious about becoming a competitive and attractive location for film and multimedia professionals.

As a long time business owner, the impact of these bills extends beyond the immediate benefits to production companies. By incentivizing productions to hire Michigan residents and engage with Michigan businesses, the state will see a multiplier effect in economic activity, from increased employment opportunities to heightened demand for local services and goods. This holistic approach to economic development is precisely what Michigan needs to grow an industry here for long term sustainability and profitability for the state.

I urge you to support House Bills 4907 and 4908 as they progress through committee. By backing this legislation, you will be championing the growth and sustainability of Michigan's multimedia industry, supporting local businesses, and contributing to the broader economic revitalization of our state.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I am available for further discussion or to provide additional insights into how this legislation will positively impact our industry and Michigan's economy as a whole.

Sincerely,
Matthew Peach
President / Producer
M-1 Studios
mpeach@m-1studios.com
248-246-7966

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Josh Ficken <jdficken@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 5:27 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz; Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Josh Ficken and I am writing to expressly support House Bills 4907 and 4908. I am a member of IATSE, Local 38 Detroit, and my primary source of income is from performing set lighting work in the MI film industry, from feature films to commercials and music videos. I have been a film union member since 2010.

I have resided in MI for my entire life and I am a graduate of the University of Michigan. I love it here, and after I graduated from college in 2007, the original MI Film Incentive was just beginning to take off. It was wonderful not having to leave the state to pursue the career that I desired. I was able to do what I love, grow and become successful, and not worry about where my next paycheck was going to come from. Myself, my coworkers and friends, and the families of all tied to the film industry greatly benefited from the incentive, and when it went away, a lot of things changed. Friends and family disappeared in search of work, my financial stability was hurt, I've had to pick up odd jobs to fully support myself, and I've had to take film work in other states like Ohio and Pennsylvania. I cannot wait for the day where I do not have to worry about how much film work will be in this state, so I can do what I love, succeed, support my family, and use the skills that I have spent years honing.

So again, I very much support House Bills 4907 and 4908, and cannot wait to see the film and media industry thrive in this great state.

Thank you for you time,

--

Josh Ficken
734.968.5062
jdficken@gmail.com
628 E. Brickley Ave, Hazel Park, MI 48030
Member of IATSE, Local 38 Detroit

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Carrie Winkler <thundrlvr2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: HBs 4907-4908

Hello, I'm writing to you today to encourage you to vote yes for the Michigan Film incentives. I live in Grand Haven Michigan and I've recently become a member of the IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees) local 26 union here in West Michigan. IATSE is one of the fastest growing unions in the nation and a leader in employing people within the film/stage and event industry. If the film incentives are passed it would greatly benefit myself and my family along with many others within the state of Michigan. Additional opportunities for work would increase health benefits along with income. Please consider supporting HBs 4907-4908. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Carrie Winkler
15040 Bignell Dr.
Grand Haven, Michigan, 49417, United States
517-803-5269
Thundrlvr2004@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPad



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Kimberly Leitz <kimberlyleitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support of House Bills 4907 and 4908, The Multimedia Jobs Act

Dear Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Gewirtz,

I'm writing to introduce myself and to express my unwavering support of House Bills 4907 and 4908, The Multimedia Jobs Act. As a proud Michigan resident and film/television/commercial professional I strongly urge the House and the Senate to vote in favor of these bills.

Without hesitation, I can sincerely say that the Michigan Film Incentives (of the past) saved my life. I began working in the Michigan film industry in 2007 while going through a divorce and single-parenting a preschool aged son. My story isn't new or different from other people's experiences; I hadn't worked in five years because I was a stay at home mom and didn't have any plans of going back to work until my son was older. My resume was outdated, technology and the way one goes about looking for work had changed and progressed, but I hadn't. Like many before me, I was scared and close to broke as I was in the throws of a divorce and hadn't come to any agreements with my soon to be ex-husband. What was different, was that I had the opportunity to better my life by starting a new career. A new career that enabled my son and me to live a higher quality of life.

Out of the blue, I was contacted to be a PA (production assistant) in the wardrobe department of an upcoming feature film that was being shot in Dearborn. I immediately accepted the offer and unbeknownst to me, my entire future changed for the better. In the past 17 years I have worked every single position in my department; learning, growing, and excelling thanks to the heads of departments and well seasoned film/tv professionals that taught me (and countless others) how to become valuable entertainment workers. Flash forward to 2024, I'm now the head of my department (costume designer) and I am gratefully represented by one of the top creative agencies in the world, The Gersh Agency. How did I get here? I was blessed to have started my career in Michigan, my beautiful home state, during the film incentive days. I was given an opportunity and a new lease on life because of this burgeoning industry.

As I stated, I'm a proud Michigan resident. I own a home, pay property taxes, have financed small businesses, participate in local charity work, etc. However, I rarely work here. I travel all over the country to work in film friendly states like Georgia, Utah, Kentucky, Ohio, Minnesota, Arizona, and California to name a few... I work in states that offer film incentives. I teach their residents how to do new jobs. I give people, like I once was, new opportunities to grow and to thrive. It's an honor to help another person learn something new that will enhance their lives forever. To be honest, I'd much rather teach my neighbors, my fellow Michiganders how to work in the wonderful world of film, television, and commercials. You can literally be and do anything you want, from costumes to construction to office work and IT, there's a job for everyone. My department employs anywhere from 5-25 crew members (depending on the size of the budget and the need). We work a minimum of 10-12 hours per day, accruing overtime pay for some really great paychecks. We work hard and are gifted a little time off between projects to rest, regroup, and to enjoy life in our magnificent state.

Please note, incentivized states typically enable us (industry professionals) countless job opportunities because there are several production filming at the same time or starting up immediately following the last. At least that was my experience when Michigan offered incentives in the past. Grateful for the old days and looking forward to new and improved opportunities here in Michigan.

I could go on and on about the benefits of these bills, but I realize your time is valuable. Thank you so much for taking the time to learn a little about me.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Leitz
kimberlyleitz@gmail.com
17385 Muirland Street
Detroit, MI 48221
248-561-7248
Film and TV Professional

Kimberly A. Leitz
Costume Designer
248.561.7248
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Member: IATSE

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February 18, 2024

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

I am writing you today to express my emphatic support for House Bills 4907 and 4908. Last year I completed a renovation of the Cadieux Stage, a historic soundstage on the east side of Detroit. Cadieux Stage was built in 1937 and is the oldest (and only surviving) sound stage in the city. Michigan has a rich history of film production the Cadieux Stage has been a part of since its inception. We are currently positioned to provide a unique and modern production experience right here in the heart of Detroit, but find it hard to stay booked consistently when much of the production work goes to nearby states with comprehensive film incentives.

Most of the productions that currently come in from out of town are here because their client, talent or agency has a connection to Michigan. When they come, they are floored by the quality and history of our facility and the high caliber of the crews that they hire while they are here. These companies hire out almost everything locally. The crews, cameras, lighting, grip, catering and props are all sourced here, often with our help. Many have said that they would love to bring productions here that otherwise have no connections to Michigan, but the lack of incentives makes the state uncompetitive. Some have even said that they would prefer shooting here over New York City.

Despite our fledgling production industry, Michigan still boasts some of the best and most experienced companies and crews in the country. The longer we are unable to compete with other states, the less likely these folks will continue to stay here. Once the industry is gone, it will be very hard, if not impossible, to get it back. I implore you to vote yes on these bills. Thank you for your time,

Christopher Lee
Cadieux Stage
4925 Cadieux Rd
Detroit, MI 48224
chris@cadieuxstage.com
313-258-7227



February 19, 2024

Hello Michigan House Representatives,

My name is Jesse Ford and I'm a small business owner and producer in the commercial and film production industry in Michigan, and I support House Bills 4907 and 4908. My wife and I, along with our two small children, reside in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan and my business is in Detroit, Michigan. Over the course of 2023, I spent almost 5 months away from my family working on film projects in tax incentive states. These films could have easily been produced in Michigan, supporting hotels, restaurants, local hardware stores, antique shops, department stores, catering companies, and a long list of other stores and specialty products and skilled trades, but without an incentive to at least allow Michigan to participate in this opportunity, these projects will continue to look outside of the state. For me and my family, a move to another state wasn't really a consideration up until recently, and we hope that we will not have to look at other states for economic opportunity.

I have been in the industry for just over a decade now and have seen firsthand our production arts community and film and media arts graduates leave this state for other opportunities in other states. I urge you to review, understand, and strongly support House Bills 4907 and 4908, as I do, not only to allow Michigan to participate in the creative production industry, but to retain, attract and recruit a creative production arts workforce that continues needing to look outside of the state for work.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jesse Ford
Producer
WTP Pictures Inc
1625 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48216
586.295.8560
jesse@wtppictures.com



STUDIO CENTER



CONTACT:

Donatella Ramos
Chief Operating Officer
69 Industrial Park Dr.,
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
(248)780-7941
donatella@studiocentermi.com
www.studiocentermichigan.com

TO: CHAIRMAN REP. JASON HOSKINS,

We at Studio Center are hoping to see bills HB 4907 and 4908 approved to benefit the film/advertisement industry in Michigan. As owners of Studio Center's sound stages, we are aware of how the lack on this type of bill affects the industry. Agencies choose to produce content in states that have bills that benefit companies in the production of films and ads, and although we offer competitive prices and services we are often eliminated as an option because of the lack of a Multi-Media Act. We, as owners of a Michigan based company, are in complete support of the new Multi-Media Act. We support the new Multi-Media Act because we believe in the creators, innovators, and movie makers here in our state of Michigan.

Our campus is home to a rich film history, but we believe there is still so much history yet to be made.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donatella Ramos
February 19, 2024
Farmington Hills, MI



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Lindsey Elizabeth Katerberg <lindseykaterberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 8:43 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz; David Haddad; Alexander Page
Subject: Please support HB 4907 & HB 4908

Greetings!

I am writing today to ask for your support of HB 4907 & HB 4908. These bills directly impact an industry I've spent nearly two decades working in. As a member of I.A.T.S.E. (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada) West Michigan Stagehands Local 26 I have advocated for our industry through unprecedented times; when live events & entertainment shut down for nearly 2 years we saw film & commercial work continue. We watched Netflix build studios in New Mexico & commit 1 Billion dollars to the state at a time where most industries were shut down. With HB 4907 & HB 4908 our wonderful state will have opportunities in the future where my brothers, sisters & kin can have the careers they deserve with the benefits & financial stability we all dream of. Most of the work available locally consists of arena tours & theatrical productions but with the Multimedia Jobs Act our jobs would elevate our current standard of living. We look forward to new opportunities & better paying jobs, but this will only happen with your support of HB 4907 & HB 4908.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Katerberg
Executive Officer
IATSE Local 26
lindseykaterberg@gmail.com
616.893.1758

2044 Greenfield Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49519



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Paul Peabody <cpservices@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:27 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: Michigan resident in support of House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello,

Paul Peabody writing. I'm a Michigan resident and home owner. I grew up living and working on the family orchards in Tyrone Township, Livingston County. I graduated Fenton High School, then Central Michigan University with a BFA degree in theatrical production and design. I have years and years experience behind the scenes working in Theater, Opera, Ballet, Display & Exhibits, Corporate Meetings, Television and Film.

I am writing to lend my support to passage of House Bills 4907 and 4908.

I usually work with film Art Departments managing the Construction, Scenic and Greens Departments. Historically, the Construction Coordinator manages and spends 10% to 15% of a film's budget. It's a lot of money! Along with the production's Art Director, we manage all scheduling, materials, other expenses (like equipment rentals and sub-contracting) and labor. I do everything I can to spend local and most every hire is a union member getting a good living wage with benefits.

At the end of any project, I can report where every department expense was made. Film incentive rules require tracking every dollar and every receipt in preparation of multiple audits to qualify for a state's film incentives.

In my position I'm frequently in the room when writers, directors, designers and location managers are working over ideas on how best to bring the script to the screen.

- We need an empty beach looking over the water with a lighthouse above. Michigan has several beautiful scenes like this and location scouts know about them. Massachusetts has an incentive so LIGHTKEEPERS was shot on Cape Cod.
- We want to see the college professor take the train to school and have his dog wait daily for his return. Ann Arbor or Durand would have been perfect. HATCHI: A DOG'S TALE was shot in Rhode Island because they had a film incentive.
- Detroit would be the best way to tell the story of WHITE BOY RICK. It's where he grew up, it's where Bill Bonds told the story on the nightly news . . . The film was shot in Cleveland because Ohio has a film incentive in place.

The other smart people in the room are Unit Production Managers, Line Producers and Executive Producers. They run scenarios, build budgets, propose solutions, make deals of all kinds and are totally flexible until details tell them to stop. Not having a film incentive is just the type of stop sign that means film projects won't be made in Michigan. At some point the decisions have to be made, it's just business. Film incentives are a large portion of every film's budget.

> I've worked in Michigan when prior film incentives were in place. Since the end of Michigan's incentive program I've had to travel often in order to follow film jobs in Ohio, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Georgia. I'm at an age where I can travel this much since my kids are grown and because my wife frequently works on the same film project. This type of work and travel is all but impossible for younger families.

> Film business is similar to the tourist industry. Money from out of state comes in. Expenditures to maintain parks, beaches, sport fishing and hunting are made to keep the tourist trade healthy. Films can bring millions and millions of out of state money to Michigan. Some of that money, thru a film incentive program will support the film's commitment to work in Michigan. The rest of the money will go to blue collar jobs, Michigan vendors and local fees.

> Film money in Michigan is similar to building new homes. As a new house is completed all the trades people, equipment and all those vans don't disappear, they move a few miles down the road to the next project.

> Films move very fast needing little in the way of infrastructure. Sure, a custom built studio is great but large warehouses can be turned into the next film project with some creativity. Michigan has plenty of these but nobody will even take a look if a film incentive isn't available.

> The day when a new Michigan Film Incentive passes I will be contacting several Michigan schools to line up graduating students and help them become part of future film projects.

I could go on and on telling stories of how films are created and how they are terrific for the state's economy and prestige. I'll stop here but don't hesitate to contact me with your questions.

Thank you for your time and attention -

- Paul Peabody

cpservices@mac.com

508 776-6494

12305 Foley Rd.

Fenton, MI 48403

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: robert ricketts <r_ricketts1179@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:47 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Multimedia jobs act

I am in support of the multi media jobs act as myself and a member of the local iatse 38. I believe that bringing the jobs act here will bring an industry here that picks up the slack of where other industries have changed/changing here in Michigan. I.e. automotive industry. I have been in film for 14 years as a special effects technician. We do the mechanical effects of a film. Examples are rain for rain scenes, car crashes, and sometimes flame bars for fires. This position is for a skilled trades person. Michigan seems to me in more need of industries that could use skilled trades. A person asked what is the goal of these bills. I think the goal IS to bring an industry here to michigan that can put all types of people to work. Thank you. Sincerely Robert Ricketts. R_ricketts1179@hotmail.com R.Ricketts 22035 elmwood ave Eastpointe, MI 48021 (248)495-4219 Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device Get Outlook for Android

I am in support of the multi media jobs act as myself and a member of the local iatse 38. I believe that bringing the jobs act here will bring an industry here that picks up the slack of where other industries have changed/changing here in Michigan. I.e. automotive industry. I have been in film for 14 years as a special effects technician. We do the mechanical effects of a film. Examples are rain for rain scenes, car crashes, and sometimes flame bars for fires. This position is for a skilled trades person. Michigan seems to me in more need of industries that could use skilled trades. A person asked what is the goal of these bills. I think the goal IS to bring an industry here to michigan that can put all types of people to work. Thank you. Sincerely Robert Ricketts.

R_ricketts1179@hotmail.com
R.Ricketts
22035 elmwood ave
Eastpointe, MI 48021
(248)495-4219

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Sue Witham <sue@mediumfilm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: Endorsement for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Dear Mr. Gewirtz,

I fully support and endorse House Bills 4907 and 4908.

The Multi-Media Jobs Act would help keep critical creative and tech-related business in Michigan. As a Michigan-based, certified Woman-Owned Small Business, I would like to keep as much of my work as possible in the state and not be dependent on traveling crew from Michigan to other states offering similar incentives.

I have a feature film that I would bring to Michigan if the House Bills were enacted. The feature would employ up to 50 Michiganders for 12+ weeks at a minimum. Wages would range from \$250/10 hours to \$4500.00/10 or more.

I also have a couple of TV shows in the works that are scripted to take place in Michigan. It would be a shame to film them outside of Michigan.

Please pass House Bills 4907 and 4908.

Sue Witham Esquire, CEO | Executive Producer
sue@mediumfilm.com
248.840.5400
Freshwater Film, Inc.
3061 Myddleton Court
Troy, MI 48084-1220

House Bills 4907 and 4908

Kindly, Sue

Sue Witham, ESQ
CEO | Executive Producer | +1.248.840.5400
Rare Medium Well Done, Inc.

mediumfilm.com

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Lisa Masseur <lisa@tessafilms.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:25 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: Alexander Page; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908 from AICP Midwest

Chairman Representative Hoskins & Representative Gewirtz,

I am writing to you to express my support for House Bills 4907 and 4908. I am the President of the AICP Midwest which is a trade organization for production companies that film commercials and content for advertising. My production company Tessa Films is located in Chicago, but we have many members in Michigan as well. As a member from Illinois that has a thriving Film Tax Credit, I can attest to the fact that if passed, the Multimedia Jobs Act WILL increase production work and bring more industry and work to Michigan. I have seen first hand the ripple effect that increased production work in a state has. From hospitality to retail, transportation to construction, multimedia productions spur growth not only in production but in a range of sectors.

The Multimedia Jobs Act is an investment in Michigan's future and the Association of Independent Commercial Producers of the Midwest fully supports this bill.

Thank you,
Lisa Masseur
President
AICP - Midwest Chapter
106 N. Aberdeen, Ste. 100
Chicago, IL 60607
312.757.4389



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Folktellers Studios <josef@folktellers.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; Nicholas Gewirtz; Stephen Sadler
Subject: Folktellers Studios Supports the Multimedia Jobs Act!

Chairman Rep Jason Hoskins:

Twenty years ago, we had a vision – to create a world of storytelling based on myth and legend. Josef Bastian and Stephen Sadler set off to build this collective dream - a world that combined technology and mythology right here in Michigan. The goal was to create an interactive, immersive experience and forge a totally new storytelling platform. They knew it wouldn't be easy, but they were determined to take this new idea as far as it could go.

Since then, Folktellers Studios has lived by the belief that a story, well told, can change the world. In 2024, we are building out a studio and production resources to design, develop, and deliver some of the world's greatest stories in film, animation, gaming, literature, and beyond.

For us, the House Bills 4907 and 4908 will give us the strength and leverage we need to build our team in Michigan.

Already made up of experts and artisans from film, music, television, gaming, literature, and digital media, our team crafts immersive tales of magic and wonder, encouraging audiences to engage with us on a deeper, more experiential level.

You can help us continue to build these dreams without having to go to another state or country to grow our business and tell our stories.

Whatever you can do to get this bill passed, please do it.

Michigan and the world needs more storytellers telling better stories.

All our best,

Stephen and Josef



Josef Bastian
josef@folktellers.com
248-914-3137
www.folktellers.com



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Lynn Birchmeier <birchmeier2000@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 6:45 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz; alaxanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddada@haddadsinc.com
Subject: House Bill 4907 and 4908

Hello,

As a mother, Grandmother and a taxpayer in the state of Michigan I would like it to be known that I believe the film incentives are good and necessary plan for bringing our Children back to the state of Michigan Once here they can help our state by paying taxes, filling our schools, and building up our communities.

My son has worked in the film industry for over 10 years in all aspects. He was forced to move to Georgia, so was able to support his family. Sadly, he took with him our States greatest assets, our youth my two granddaughters.

He has produced a full-length film on his own and the monies spent to rent a place, to shoot the film, feed the crew, hire craft services, hotels for everyone have surely made an impact in our little Farming town of New Lothrop. I can only imagine what a large production company would spend while working on a film! Such as Superman which he did work on!

My Husband was a displaced auto worker that was let go in the 80's due to the Auto industry flips and flops, He had to make his own way, which was his plan, others are not so driven. Another reason to Bring the incentives back, here in Michigan we need something here besides automotive, diversification is key to our communities.

I work in Flint and have seen the decline in the amount of people that have left the state of Michigan. New jobs that bring young people back to the state are needed. I am Not saying that Film people will live in Flint, but they may have family here and come to town and eat or go to the Whitting, or the Planetarium. The spending of their money around our towns will definitely impact the state of Michigan, because If they are living out of state that's where their money will be spent. We're shortly heading to Georgia to spend some money. I would much rather take vacations here in Michigan! There is no comparisons between the two states. Michigan Hands down has my vote!

Please vote yes to the film incentives and let the State of Michigan Showcase all its beauty, let's make the other states Jealous!

Thank You!
Lynn Birchmeier

Lynn Birchmeier
5500 N Byron Road
Corunna, Mi. 48817
birchmeier2000@aol.com
810-659-6800

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: McBride, Derek G. <dmcbride@kotzsangster.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 5:03 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: Nicholas Gewirtz; alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Multimedia Jobs Act; House Bills 4907 and 4908

Dear Representative Hoskins,

I am writing to express my support for House Bills 4907 and 4908, commonly referred to as the Multimedia Jobs Act. As a Detroit based lawyer, having represented independent film production companies, I know the critical role incentives play in financing an independent film project. Michigan has a large independent film community filled with highly talented individuals who need the support these bills would provide in achieving their goal of doing what they love for a living.

Sincerely,

Derek G. McBride, Esq.

KOTZ SANGSTER

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Derek G. McBride, Esq.
Kotz Sangster Wysocki P.C.
400 Renaissance Center | Suite 3400
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Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Clark Birchmeier <clarkbirchmeier@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello,

My name is Clark Birchmeier, I am writing today on behalf of myself and my business Birchmeier Films, LLC, which is registered in the state of Michigan. You can reach me at this email address, clarkbirchmeier@gmail.com and/or 989-330-1636. You can also learn more about me on imdb to better understand the caliber of the projects I have been involved with over the last fifteen years: [imdb.me/clarkbirchmeier](https://www.imdb.me/clarkbirchmeier)

I am emailing you today to send my support for Bills 4907 and 4908. My family and I currently live in Atlanta, Georgia. I moved to Atlanta, because when Michigan lost their film incentives, I lost my health care.

Michigan's original film incentive had kept me working in a Union film trade, maintained my healthcare, and kept me and my family with money to pay the bills and be able to own a home. When the incentive left the state of Michigan, I eventually ran out of all those possibilities. We had to leave our family, our friends, and our great home state to go to the state of Georgia - honestly a state that doesn't even come close to the joys our home state brings us.

I ask you that you please vote in favor of the upcoming bills 4907 and 4908 so my family and I can return back to the state that we love and miss so much. It will bring lots of talent back home to the great state, and will keep the new generations' brilliant minds in the state so they don't have to look for work in other places in the country.

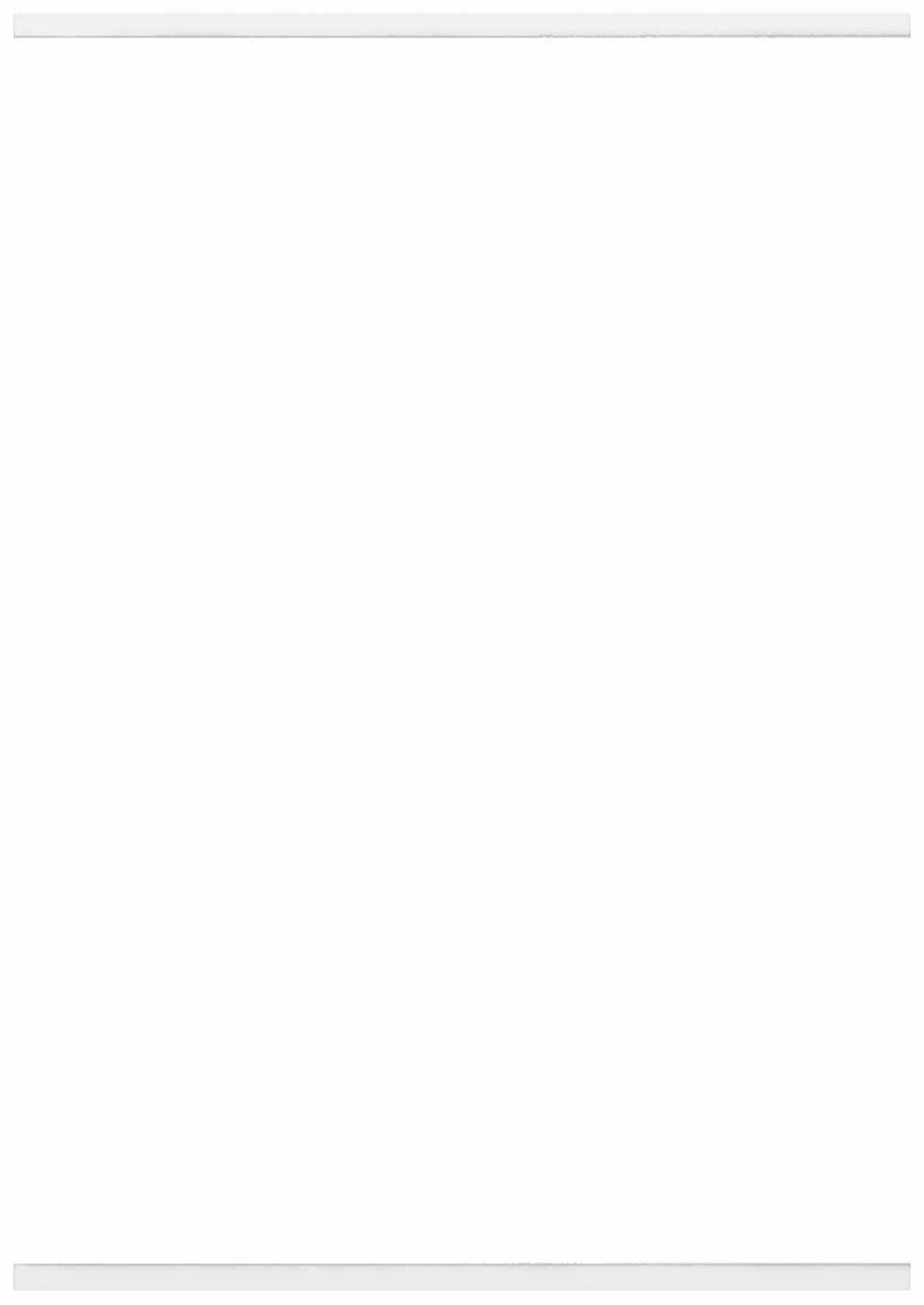
Most importantly, Bills 4907 and 4908 will bring a lot of money back into the economy. People that work in filmmaking work long hours, and earn great overtime pay in the process. When the weekend rolls around after 70 working hours, they don't have much energy to do most of the basic tasks required by adults. This means they will be spending money on things such as taking laundry to be done by a service, ordering their dinners from a local restaurant, paying a landscape service to mow their lawn, or plow the snow, or just looking for a way to relax or be entertained. That said, there will also be millions of dollars being spent by the productions to make the project. It's great for everybody involved.

Once again, **I ask you to vote in support of Bills 4907 and 4908** so we can all help create a thriving Michigan economy together, and watch it grow and prosper.

Thank you so much for your support.

Very Respectfully,

Clark Birchmeier
989-330-1636



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Brian Kelly <detroitcomics@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: Alexander Page; David Haddad
Subject: Brian Kelly and letter of support for HB 2907 and 2908 the Multimedia Jobs Act

To House committee members,

My name is Brian Kelly, and I am a 30 year veteran of the film industry who has worked as a set electrician and rigging electrician on many feature films and commercials both here in Michigan and Chicago. I wanted to submit a letter of support advocating for the Multimedia Jobs Act to be passed quickly and get these good paying jobs and opportunities here in Michigan for our residents.

These jobs are well paying, great benefits, and terrific opportunities for the residents of whatever states that they are implemented in when a film program happens. In turn, these jobs are building other businesses within the community, and increasing business for support companies to hire more workers and build facilities. This "ripple effect" will benefit Michigan in ways that will beat any expectation of the program. I am the direct result of a career in this industry and blossoming within it.

I must leave the state and elsewhere to find work within my industry (Ohio, Illinois, Oklahoma, and New Orleans), while paying their taxes, eating in their restaurants, and buying amenities in their stores, when I would love nothing better than to stay and work and pay those costs within my own state of Michigan. States both red and blue: (Texas, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, and NY) are equally realizing how well these tax credits benefit their states and Michigan deserves to have the same opportunities that these 40 + states offer, and we do not.

Michigan youth need, desire, and their futures depend on staying in Michigan and growing themselves here as opposed to leaving after graduation from a Michigan university and taking their valuable human capital with them. These creatives will improve our state and the Multimedia Jobs Act can aid in this effort!

I fully support HB's 4907 and 4908 and please pass the Multimedia Jobs Act and we can start growing our state again.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Brian Kelly



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: James Brown <brownwolfvideo@att.net>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 7:40 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Haddads; Alexander Page; Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: Support for House Bill 4907 & 4908

Hello,

My name is James Brown, I've been a Detroit filmmaker for nearly 20 years. I've worked many long days to own two businesses Brown Wolf Video & JBC Production Services related to film and advertising multimedia production. I've worked in Michigan majority of my life and career, however I've also spent time making movies in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Austin, and many other cities across the United States.

It would be very easy for me to list the numerous reasons of support today for bills 4907 and 4908, but I'd like to go a step further. I have scoured social media and the rest of the internet to locate all the criticisms of Michigans Multimedia Jobs Act bill and here is what I have found:

I located some negative comments saying that it is a handout from the "tax payer". Well if they are talking about big-money corporations such as Disney paying Michigans workers and all their surrounding businesses, which will in turn help pay large percentages of those businesses' taxes -then I suppose those negative people are "correct". However, only the "handouts" will be first earned by its workforce, and then said "handout" will just keep coming back into the great state of Michigan, by the bill's great design.

This new Multi Media job acts bill only gives a small percentage of money back AFTER the money is spent IN the state of Michigan, audited by approved CPAs. With all that in mind, based on how this bill is designed to recycle its tax credit money continuously back into the state, the state's taxpayers will never feel a "handout" and IF it does, it will be after a ten year bill sunset of huge financial gains thanks to filmmaking and this bill. Once again this is a JOBS act. It's bringing jobs to Michigan, which brings more money to the local economy.

Naysayers have even said that this is a bill crafted by below-the-line workers, for below-the-line workers...well, you are darn right it is - it's a bill to support, retain, and attract middle class, hard working Americans back into our state. We are the people that pay your taxes, build your homes, clean your floors, fill your schools and fund the education system for future generations. And yes, all these services described happen on film sets, even if it's just to "set the scene." Once again this is a JOBS act. It's bringing jobs to Michigan, which brings more money to the local economy.

The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. When there are short-sighted local producers on social media suggesting that it's not a good film bill for Michigan producers, it's because they are correct again. The bill is not designed to line pockets of small-budget Hallmark movie producers; it's a bill designed to put many many crew members to work making films, TV, and advertising. All these "below the line crew" people that it supports will in turn have the weight together to support other new forward-thinking endeavors; the voice of a couple small film producers will not. Once again this is a JOBS act. It's bringing jobs to Michigan, which brings more money to the local economy.

Make no mistake, grass roots Michigan film companies will benefit greatly from this bill just as much as any other Hollywood company. That said, it's on them to make big funds available to hire a competitive workforce at a competitive wage. Once again this is a JOBS act. It's bringing jobs to Michigan, which brings more money to the local economy.

I assure you that we as a Michigan filmmaking community have survived many long days together. Our co-workers have become our families. We look out for each other because we have to. This bill is designed to attract much more big-

money business for our families' cities and state. To keep our families here, raise them here, and bring all the other film workers in the country back home. A vote for 4907 and 4908 is a positive vote for our families.

I can only hope when you are prompted, you will vote to grow the filmmaking community and preserve our families to grow them here with success to once again help grow Michigan's middle class. Once again this is a JOBS act. It's bringing jobs to Michigan, which brings more money to the local economy. And the biggest benefit of all, it will keep our families together.

Thank you,

James Brown
Brown Wolf Video
JBC Production Services
313-995-1730

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Lucas <lucasbb24@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 9:03 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: haddads@haddadsinc.com; alexanderpage77@hotmail.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello,

My name is Lucas Birchmeier, and I have several family and friends in the film industry that are struggling or had to pick up and move to other states in order to keep their jobs and health insurance. Most of these people are from the great state of Michigan, just like myself!

I am emailing you today to send my support for Bills 4907 and 4908. Please bring these jobs back to Michigan so my family can once again reside and make a living in the great state of Michigan once again!

Thank you,
Lucas



Royal Starr

Arts Institute

Community. Education. Events.

I am thrilled to extend my full support to bills 4907 & 4908, which hold tremendous promise for our community of filmmakers. As an integral part of the Royal Starr Arts Institute, we recognize the invaluable impact these proposed legislations can have on our collective aspirations and endeavors.

The potential inherent in the Multi Media Jobs Act, as introduced in Lansing, resonates deeply within our community. It is not merely a matter of policy; it is a beacon of hope, igniting excitement and anticipation among filmmakers across Michigan. With its passage, we envisage a landscape ripe with opportunities, where creativity flourishes, and talent thrives.

Our filmmakers are not just spectators; they are active participants, eagerly awaiting the chance to contribute to an industry they are deeply passionate about. The prospect of working within the framework of these bills fills us with enthusiasm and optimism for the future of filmmaking in our state.

Moreover, the significance of fostering a conducive environment for our industry cannot be overstated. By nurturing local talent and incentivizing production within our borders, bills 4907 & 4908 have the potential to transform Michigan into a hub of cinematic excellence.

We are committed to leveraging our expertise, resources, and networks to ensure the success of these legislative endeavors. Together, let us embrace this opportunity to shape a brighter, more prosperous future for our filmmaking community and our beloved state of Michigan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke Castle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Luke Castle
President
Royal Starr Art Institute & Film Festival

Royal Starr

Arts Institute

Community. Education. Events.

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Olga Denysenko <ODenysenko@productions-plus.com>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: haddads@haddadsinc.com; alexaderpage77@hotmail.com
Subject: HB 4907 & 4908, the Multimedia Jobs Act - letter of support - PRODUCTIONS PLUS



To whom it may concern,

My name is Debbie Williams. I am a talent agent at Productions Plus in Detroit. I am writing on behalf of myself and the entire Theatrical Department of Productions Plus.

We would like to clearly state our support for **House Bills 4907 and 4908**.

- **Debbie Williams - Agent Theatrical**
- **Olga Denysenko - Agent Theatrical**
- **Marsha Bassi - Agent Theatrical**
- **Hedy Popson - CEO**

- **Productions Plus Detroit**
- **dwilliams@productions-plus.com**
- **248.644.5566**
- **30600 TELEGRAPH RD**
- **BINGHAM FARMS MI 48025**

Productions Plus is the largest Midwest Agency located in Bingham Farms MI. We represent actors, voice over artists, and models for TV, Film, VO, Industrials and Print for both SAG-AFTRA and Non-Union projects. We've been in business for over 43 years and represent over one thousand performers/models of actors across the state of Michigan.

The proposed bills would bring an influx of Film, TV, and commercial work into the state benefitting actors, talent agencies and the State of Michigan as a whole. When a project is filmed in Michigan, for instance, those benefiting would include actors, talent agents, casting directors, wardrobe departments, hair/makeup artists, camera crew, production assistants, boom operators, location supervisors, etc. The credits that you see at the end of the movie that go on forever – those lists encompass a vast number of jobs that could go to Michiganders working on local film crews.

Beyond those working on the film gaining income from the passing of this bill, numerous local businesses will benefit due to non-local and local performers and crew who will be temporarily relocated during production.

Temporary increases in revenue provide trackable data and income streams. However, another passionate consideration is to not just have productions come to our state but, rather, have those talented artists and

creators who might currently reside here STAY here. We have some of the best college Performing Arts programs right here in Michigan. Wouldn't it be nice if these brilliant young actors had a career path that kept them right here in Michigan?

In closing, there is a lot of pride that goes along with attaching Movies, TV shows and Commercials to your home state. We believe that Michigan, Detroit in particular, is experiencing a renaissance. The Film/TV Industry would only enhance our profile and give people another reason to want to be a Michigander. Right now, Michigan is among only 10 other states offering zero film incentives. It's time we get on board and bring the *magic of the movies* back to Michigan!

Thank you so much for your strong consideration.

Debbie Williams

Olga Denysenko

Marsha Bassi

Hedy Popson



David Boyd

I am writing in support of the **Multimedia Jobs Act**.

I have been working in the film industry for over ten years. I had made my career in the advertising industry when the events of 2008 required that I pivot. Fortunately Michigan had a strong and growing film production industry that fit my skill-set (Illustration, Storyboards and graphic design).

Making my living in film now requires working out of state in Chicago, Atlanta, Cleveland, or Baton Rouge most of the year. Could I just pivot again to stay local? Probably. But this is satisfying work and allows me to make a good living for me and my family.

This is my point – Film jobs are good jobs! They pay well and provide great benefits and paths for advancement. *(A feature or T.V. pilot is worth 30K - 40K plus benefits to me.)*

Beyond my own personal interests, a typical feature film will have about 400 people on the payroll for about 4 months. This crew is comprised of the directors and camera people that you might expect but also the carpenters, electricians, welders, and drivers that you might not. Production companies have a dozen people on staff who buy things all day like office space, warehouse space, printers and other office machines, lumber, furniture, landscaping, (I worked on a show that spent 30K on dry cleaning!) They buy hundreds of airline tickets, rent locations, hotel rooms, and cars. They feed those 400 people every day. Usually twice!

It is clear that many people not directly involved in a film's creation benefit directly from film production activity. The economic benefits are greater than just the payroll taxes generated from production company employees.

Does film hire from outside Michigan? Sure, they bring people from the world over... And we get to be ambassadors and tour guides to our guests directing them to our favorite spots all over the state. Oftentimes during breaks in filming, rather than go home, these guests bring in their families for a week on Mackinaw Island. A pretty good tourism program in my book.

Finally, I choose to live in Michigan where I was born and travel to make my living. Many of my colleagues have just packed up and moved their families to the states where they can work in their craft. I remember after my pivot – meeting so many film people moving back to Michigan after long exiles when it became viable to make a living in creativity here in their home state. I haven't seen them around in a while. **I wonder where they are now?**

David Boyd



5960 Dunmore Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48322



248-797-1287



davidboyd@comcast.net



Davidboydillustration.com
Davidboydfilm.com





Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Haryl L Deason <hdeason4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:46 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com; Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: Support for MJA

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Multimedia Jobs Act (MJA), recently introduced in Michigan. As a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience in the film industry, I firmly believe that initiatives like the MJA are crucial for fostering growth and innovation within the state's creative and tech-related industries.

The MJA, spearheaded by Representatives Jason Hoskins and John Roth, presents a bipartisan effort aimed at attracting new jobs and talent to Michigan. This legislation, comprising HB 4907 and HB 4908, focuses on creating a transferable tax credit to promote Michigan-produced films, television shows, digital streaming productions, and commercials. Unlike rebates, this tax credit offsets unrealized state tax revenue, thereby fostering a marketplace exclusive to Michigan-based companies.

Drawing from my extensive experience in developing and supporting production services infrastructure across various regions, including Los Angeles California, New Orleans Louisiana, and Atlanta Georgia, I can attest to the transformative impact such incentives can have on a state's multimedia production landscape. By encouraging investment in local projects and creating job opportunities within the state, the MJA has the potential to significantly bolster Michigan's economy and establish it as a competitive force in the multimedia industry.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed firsthand the positive outcomes that result from strategic initiatives aimed at supporting the film industry. From co-founding exclusive providers of lighting and grip equipment to overseeing the construction of purpose-built stages and establishing studio operations policies, I have consistently worked towards driving growth and fostering lasting partnerships within the industry.

In conclusion, the Multimedia Jobs Act represents a crucial step towards strengthening Michigan's position in multimedia production and fostering economic growth. I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation and urge you to lend your support to its passage.

Haryl L. Deason
Studio Consultants International
President
[Hdeason4@gmail.com](mailto:hdeason4@gmail.com)
(225) 773-8704
13231 Northfield Blvd
Oak Park MI 48237



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: sharon sigler <sharonsigler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: Multi media jobs bill

Sent from my iPhone Please support this bill for the future of Michigan. This will affect some many lives. With regards,
Sharon Sigler Dryden, Michigan 48428



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Boos Secret Saus <boossecretsaus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:48 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: House Bills 4907, 4908 and Michigan Multimedia Jobs Act support

As a longtime business owner in the State of Michigan, I am writing in support of House Bills 4907 and 4908 and passage of the Michigan Multimedia Jobs Act.

By way of introduction, my name is Bethany Lee Robinson. I have built a freelance court reporting business beating the streets of Detroit for over 35 years. My passion for the City of Detroit has led me to produce a workplace mockumentary showcasing the iconic places and faces and an unknown skillset which brings awareness of an occupation that allows financial stability to single parents and military spouses, to name a few.

The concept and content of my film production has never been brought to the forefront and is one which gives gratitude at the end of the day along with humor, musical spins on the moral of the story and I have a national network ready to pick it up and I just need to produce it. In the words of the William Morris Agency, "it is unique, has a voice, and the potential is real." It is truly empowering and just *needs your power behind the scenes!*

Unfortunately, I have found producers and investors are very adamant about filming outside of the State of Michigan solely because of the tax incentives which are not available in Michigan. I am absolutely perplexed why our great state does not afford this opportunity for the creative arts and production workforce which, needless to say, will bring millions in revenue with longevity to the State of Michigan.

As it stands, the credits, revenue and job opportunities will be given outside of the State of Michigan as I will be forced to take my production outside of our state without these incentives our film industry is precluded from utilizing. I am up against the wall in standing my ground on filming in Detroit, Michigan and need your support, and you are my last resort.

I humbly ask and strongly encourage the House Bills 4907, 4908 and Multimedia Jobs Act be given serious consideration for the best interests of all concerned and credit be given where credit is due, which could be, and should be given to the State of Michigan.

I thank you in advance for your time, consideration, and your intelligence in this regard.

Best,

Bethany Lee Robinson, CSR

Robinson Reporting, LLC

Off-The-Cuff Productions, LLC

2026 Peterwood Court; Rochester Hills, MI 48307

BoosSecretSaus@gmail.com

248.709.9951



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Kellee Cragin <kelleecragin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 & 4908

I am writing to voice my support of House Bills 4907 & 4908.

I am a UPM in the Director's Guild of America.

Most of my family are in the film business. All of us got our start in Michigan.

Patrick Cragin	Director/DP
Audrey Pask	EP/Avalon Films
Kellee Cragin	UPM
Jeff Conlon	AD
Pat Pask	DP
Miguel Pask	Camera Operator
Brittany Pask	Costume Supervisor
Trevor Rios	AC
Michele Whaley	Wardrobe Stylist
Shawn Cragin	AC/Ultimate Arm Operator
Justin Cragin	Grip
Shannon Cragin	Producer
Joe Layson	Grip

Due to the fact that it has always been a struggle here to maintain enough work, several have had to move to LA & Atlanta and even Charlotte.

Or sadly, some have chosen to stay in Michigan but get out of the film business due to lack of work. Family is so important to us.

I know if these bills pass it will provide an opportunity for crew that are here and for those that wish to return to Michigan.

We want people to move here. They will buy homes. They will spend money in our state instead of California or Georgia.

Not only people directly in the business will benefit. When we are working at full capacity, so many unrelated suppliers are given more business:

bagel stores, paint stores, lumber stores, hotels, vehicle rentals, heavy equipment rentals, office space rentals, restaurants, dry cleaners, local sign shops, etc

We NEED an incentive. It is everything to the life of the film community in Michigan.

Thank you,
Kellee Cragin

UPM/DGA
2013 Crowndale Lane
Canton MI 48188
filminthed@gmail.com
313.319-4609

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Dan Robbins <danrobbins3333@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 9:41 AM
To: Jasonhoskins@house.mi
Cc: Nicholas Gewirtz; alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Our hope that you will support HB 4907 and 4908

Dan & Katherine Robbins
202 Euclid Ave
Royal Oak, Mi 48067
Ph-586-873-6187
danrobbins3333@gmail.com
kathyrobbins333@gmail.com

Hello,

We hope you will support the legislation before you that will support HB 4907 and 4908.
Our son works in the film industry and has discussed his need to move to California to advance in the industry.

We are naturally hopeful that he can continue to work in the film industry in Michigan. We have followed the hearings regarding HB 4907 and 4908 and we are convinced that passage of this legislation would support the chances of our son being successful in the film industry while keeping our family together.

We believe also that the passage of these bills would be important as an expression of our Michigan Legislature being in support of keeping jobs in Michigan.

We are hoping that you will give your vote to further these bills.

Thank You, Dan & Katherine Robbins



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: KRISTY BECK-BAIR <kbeckbair@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 9:42 AM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: Mike Bair
Subject: Movie industry bills

Greetings,

My name is Dr. Kristy Beck-Bair, and I am writing in support of pending legislation for House Bills 4907 and 4908. I am the previous business owner of Family Dental Care of Dimondale and past Treasurer and Vice President of the Dimondale Business Association.

As a member of the business community, I feel that this industry is vital to bringing and retaining young people to our State. This is a small way we can diversify from automobile manufacturing, nourish our arts, and showcase our beautiful state to the world. I personally know young adults that have relocated their families to Georgia or other states to work in these industries. I strongly support these bills, and hope you will vote for them, and allow Michigan to compete with other states for these opportunities. Sincerely, Dr. Kristy Beck-Bair

Sent from my iPad



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Nando Garza <nando@nandovoices.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: I support House bills 4907 and 4908

Dear Legislators:

I want to offer my support for House bills 4097 and 4908.

My name is Fernando Macias-Jimenez, going by the stage name Nando Garza, and I am an actor. In fact, I am at the moment the face of Michigan on behalf of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation as part of their national \$20 million "You Can In Michigan" campaign. This campaign is aimed at bringing new talent to our wonderful state and I am honored to be the spokesperson for it. I hope that what I've done can convince some folks to move to Michigan, but I would like it even more if together we could bring more jobs to the state, particularly in the film industry. Speaking out of personal experience, a commercial like this can be a huge source of employment. This commercial alone had a crew of over 50 people in all sorts of departments. It was filmed in a state-of-the-art facility with gear only seen in huge Hollywood productions like The Mandalorian. As for myself, that commercial alone has fed my family for many months now and continues to do so through residuals and things of that nature. I couldn't be more thankful. If more of these types of projects come through, more people will be employed and more people will get a chance to make a living in a vibrant industry. People in it are extremely passionate about it, and that passion inevitably translates to dollars for them and their families, and dollars for the state. I have talked to many people across many different areas, and every one of us hopes that Michigan will become a hub for the film industry once again. We can make this happen.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

- Fernando Macias-Jimenez (Nando Garza)
- nando@nandovoices.com
- (512)658-9079
- 3750 Palisades Blvd, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



Nando Garza
ENG/SPA Voice Actor (SAG-AFTRA)

Mobile. +1 (512)658-9079
Web. www.NandoVoices.com
VO Rep. Atlas Talent Agency





March 1st, 2024

Michigan House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to support House Bills 4907 and 4908, otherwise known as the Multimedia Jobs Act. I am a member of IATSE 161 and have spent the last six years working in New York City as a production accountant in network TV and major motion pictures. I now reside in Farmington, MI with my wife and daughter.

These incentives will put money directly into our communities in ways non-industry professionals do not realize over the course of a production. While working as a production accountant I have personally printed and mailed checks totaling millions of dollars for catering, rentals, locations, and supplies -spilling over into countless local businesses and the pockets of residents. Take locations costs for an example: a house on a street is rented as the shooting location. In addition to filming location receiving a sizeable rental payment, checks are often written to adjacent property owners for a multitude of reasons: as a show of good faith, to allow parking in their driveways, to simply have their porch lights on or off, or to simply to make up for any inconvenience caused by filming. Often these add up to thousands of dollars and benefit whole blocks with an unexpected influx of cash. This one example is not unique and exemplifies how the industry supports economies in many unexpected ways.

In addition to the direct costs of boots on the ground filming, I am a proud member of IATSE and see the incredible benefits and salaries (many in six figures) of the hundreds of crew; people who chose to live where they can find work. These individuals and families would reside in Michigan if the industry existed, and their salaries would be spent in Michigan. Even crew or creatives who may call another state home, spend extended periods of time on location, and their costs of living are great for landlords, rental companies, restaurant owners, shops and more. Economies always benefit from residents and visitors with expendable income, and the film industry provides that in droves.

Finally, the transferable nature of the incentives is a key change from the previous bills. It requires that the spending I outlined above occurs months and years before any credit is issued. Furthermore, it requires that our tax dollars remain in the state, used by the local production company or sold to another MI business. The secondary market for MMJA credits will allow them to be utilized by many local businesses in other sectors, giving them another boost towards profitability and success.

In closing, Michigan's lack of an incentive means that the film/tv industry will not exist here. It means I will continue to have to make the tough choice to leave the industry all together or travel for long periods of time away from my family and home state. The passage of MMJA would allow me to finally seek work and find it right here in Michigan by incentivizing companies to film here.

Please support these thoughtfully constructed bills and help our state shine on the screen and strengthen and diversify its economy.

Sincerely,

Dolan Bloom – *IATSE Local 161 1st Assistant Accountant*

dolanbloom@gmail.com

517-242-6026

22449 Floral Street, Farmington MI 48336



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Peter Tocco <petertocco@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:00 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello

My name is Peter Tocco. I have been a working actor for over 30 yrs.
I stand in support of House Bill 4907 and 4908

I live in this great state, but because Michigan does not have an incentive,
I am forced to travel to states that do offer incentives like California, New York, Illinois, and Ohio.

Please vote yes for these two bills, and bring this work to Michigan.
This great state has so much to offer productions that film here.
These bills would be a huge shot in the arm in terms of work for those of us that live here and showcase Michigan as a premier destination to visit.

With Respect
Peter Tocco
5735 Belle River rd.
Imlay City, MI. 48444
586 530-0308
petertocco@mac.com



Dear Legislators,

I want to offer my support for House Bills 4907 and 4908. I had the privilege of attending the last hearing and felt inspired to provide a different perspective that our representatives seemed interested in hearing. Specifically, from people in TV or other forms of multimedia within our state.

I am a Lifelong resident of Michigan & small business owner as a freelance Director of Photography (or cinematographer) primarily in Television, feature length documentaries, and web content. I've been in the industry for over 13 years. For the last few years a majority of my work has been with Magnolia network, HGTV & Documentaries. I work on most of the home design or build shows that come through our great state. Since 2021 I've been filming 3 seasons of a show called "The Established Home" that was nominated for an Daytime Emmy in 2023 and waiting to return to filming this year in 2024.

In addition to my responsibility of filming, I'm also the dept head, overseeing multiple camera crew members on any given show. Sometimes shows are shooting here for a few days or up to 3 -10 months out of the year. While we try to hire as much local crew as possible, some people still have to travel from out of state. Even with that much work, I am usually working out of state 30-35% of my year because of the sporadic nature of our industry.

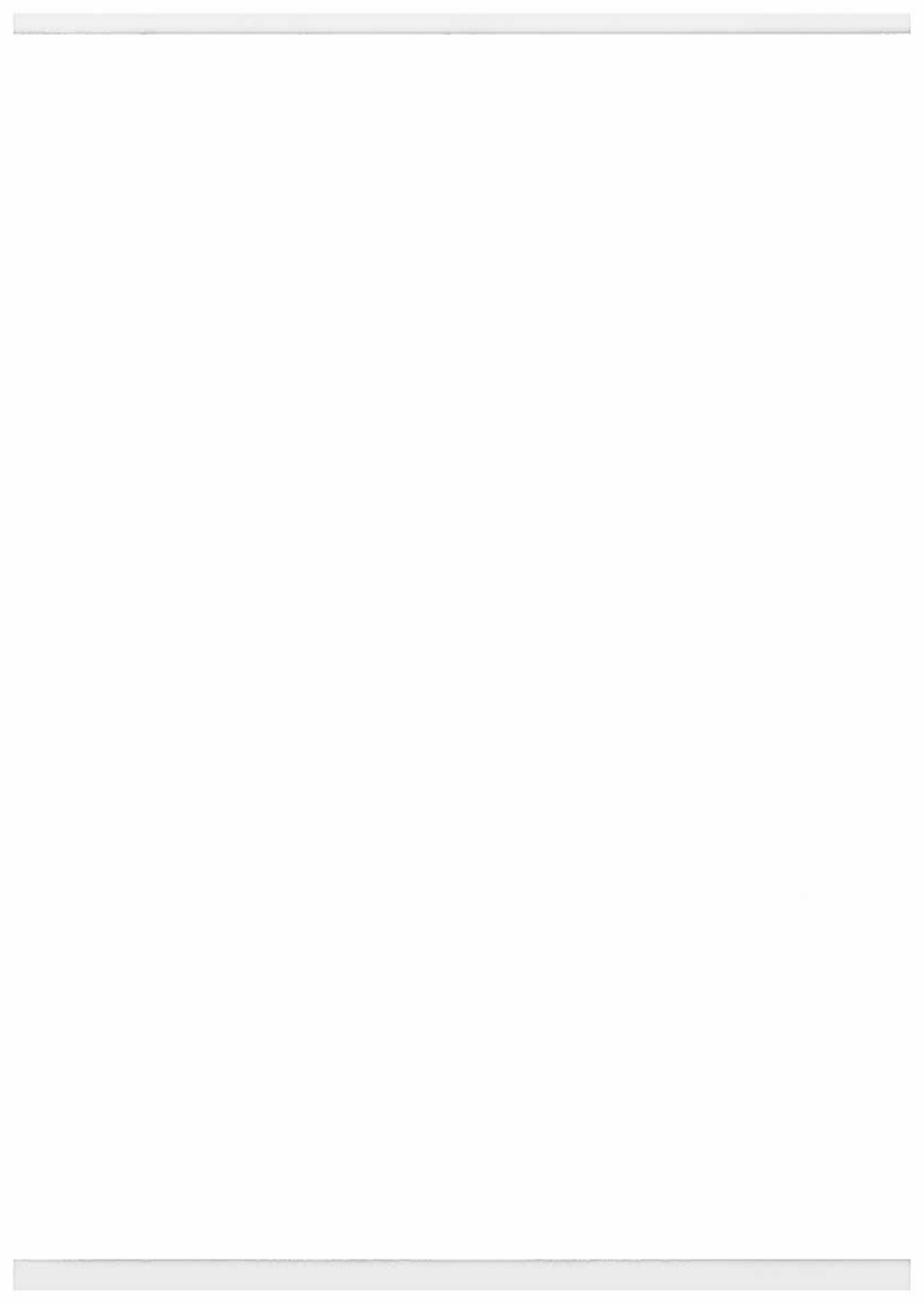
By passing the Michigan Multimedia incentives, we can continue to use the power of storytelling to showcase our state's beauty, diversity, and talent. I urge you to consider the positive impact that these incentives can have on our economy and the cultural landscape of Michigan. As well as keeping jobs in the state. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Shane McMurphy

Owner, Process Theory

processtheory@gmail.com // 248.508.7934





To Whom It May Concern:

I am very excited to hear about the Multimedia Jobs Act and am a strong advocate of it becoming law.

Born and raised in Southeast Michigan, I came upon film studies in high school and from then on knew my career would be based in film, television, and broadcast technologies. With that I also knew I would have to leave the state I grew up within in order to have a fruitful career in the narrative space. Thankfully, I graduated college right in time to take advantage of Michigan's new film tax incentive. The strongest in the country, it was an exciting 3 or 4 years seeing spontaneous investment in Detroit and other needy areas, putting money into local crew and business pockets, and seeing residents invest more in the local economy with homes, employees, recreation, taxes, and the list goes on.

When the incentives were killed off by former Governor Snyder, I realized my ability to work in Michigan was over. My wife and I relocated to Atlanta and within a short time was able to thrive in a high-income role, invest in homes, businesses, and truly find success. I am one of many that were able to see this personal growth in Georgia and it's been amazing to see the increased salaries, growth of the housing market and increased property values, businesses like hotels, studios, support services, restaurants and more churning billions of dollars of revenue and investment. And it's all thanks to the uncapped film incentive there. And the locals know it – including the non-film workers. Georgia has had a year-over-year large budget surplus and what the representatives have told us it's a big thanks to this multibillion dollar industry that has been created in Georgia. It pains me to know what Michigan could have been if it stuck with it. Even look to Toronto only a few hours away with a similar climate but more multimedia business friendly.

I have owned and invested in multiple companies since leaving Michigan, all which have benefited from Georgia's business and incentive friendly climate. A big part of that, which I have loved, is having been able to provide employment to many individuals who in turn have been able to grow their livelihoods and invest in their communities. Of note, my current company RDH provides broadcast, media, and film equipment as well as services to productions and crew at large. Our Cellberus Communications division provides edge networking, bonded cellular, and satellite communications for productions to stream and stay in communication regardless of their location and environment. I can thankfully say we have brought in millions to the local economy alone.

If the Multimedia Jobs Act is enacted, we will certainly open office in Michigan and invest in the state. We have seen such great growth in Georgia, with the elected leaders on both sides of the aisle and top corporations all nurturing and standing behind the incentives, we would love to see the same back home. I know the good this can provide in a short time span if done right and this Act is a major step in the right direction. I implore you to invest in the technological and financial growth of people in Michigan, and not solely autos.

Sincerely,

Joe Elrom



Dear House Economic Development and Small Business Committee,

On behalf of Wolfgang Studios, a Southfield, MI-based Production & Post-Production house, we want to firmly voice my support for House Bills 4907 and 4908.

Wolfgang Studios has been a partner in the Michigan film community since our inception, producing work both above and below the \$50,000 threshold that these bills would provide a tax credit for. We've found Michigan crew and vendors to be uniquely creative, qualified, and hard-working on projects that we've filmed here previously, and House Bills 4907 and 4908 would allow more production to utilize Michigan's fine human and natural resources.

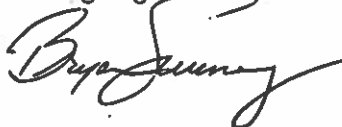
Wolfgang Studios has worked with Michigan-based clients such as Stellantis, Consumers Energy, Judson Center, Hungry Howie's, and Detroit Zoo on productions filmed in Michigan. We have also worked in Michigan with our out-of-state clients such as The UPS Store, Fairlife, Listerine, Owens-Corning, and Hackensack Meridian Health. These productions have been completed despite not being able to offer a film incentive. Many other clients request production be moved to states which offer the type of benefit that House Bills 4907 and 4908 would provide Michigan production community. This production work bolsters Michigan's economy, crew, and overall reputation among major advertisers around the country and world.

In addition to these missed economic opportunities, young professionals often feel as though they need to leave Michigan to advance their careers. They're often moving to Illinois, Georgia, or Texas, where production has been able to build budding communities of working professional filmmakers. With many in Michigan focused on retaining our top talent, supporting these bills would be a tremendous advantage towards that goal, which is crucial to Michigan's future.

As a company that not only specializes in production, but post-production as well, that side of business is exponentially impacted by new production. Countless assets can be created from one single production, for years to come. These assets are often created by our full-time, local staff, who would stand to grow from more work being brought to our state.

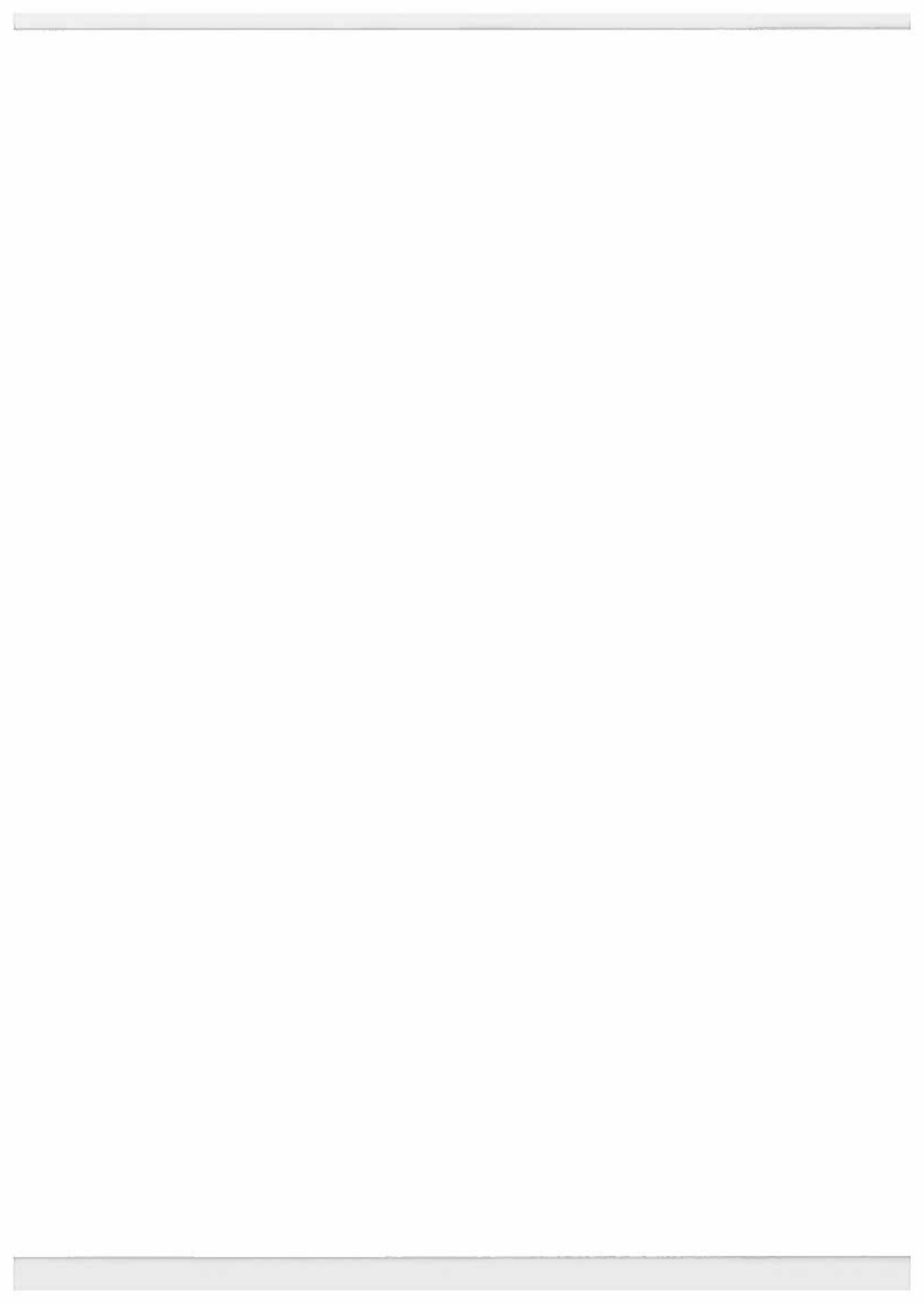
We hope this testimonial will stand with many others urging the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee to support House Bills 4907 and 4908. These bills stand to bring a genuinely creative, passionate, and economically robust industry back to Michigan.

Best Regards,
Bryan Sweeney
Chief Content Officer
Wolfgang Studios



Katherine Simmonds
EVP, Director of Operations
Wolfgang Studios





Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Nigel Robbins <nrobbinstt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 6:30 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com

Nigel Robbins
3293 Kenwood St, Ferndale, MI 48220
nrobbinstt@gmail.com
5862293151
03/11/24
On set role: Digital Imaging Technician

Dear Representative Hoskins and Mr. Gewirtz,

As a proud Michigan resident deeply invested in our state's future, I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bills 4907 and 4908, which propose reinstating film tax incentives in Michigan. These bills are more than just a boost to our local economies; they're about lighting up Michigan on the global stage as a beacon for creativity and innovation.

By welcoming film productions back with open arms, we're not just opening the door to economic growth; we're laying out the welcome mat for job creation, local business support, and a lively cultural scene. Imagine the buzz and vibrancy local businesses would feel, from Detroit to Grand Rapids, as they play their part in bringing stories to life on the big screen.

Moreover, this isn't just about economics. It's about keeping Michigan cool, fresh, and innovative. The film industry has the unique power to captivate and retain the bright minds and creative spirits that might otherwise seek the future they desire elsewhere. As a film worker, I have chosen to stay in Michigan for the moment, but the opportunity in bigger markets for more alluring work has always been bait. Introducing this bill will surely keep me inside the State as a contributing member of the local community.

We have a chance to make Michigan a place where art, technology, and community intersect, creating a magnet for talent and ambition. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by. Supporting House Bills 4907 and 4908 means investing in Michigan's economic diversity and cultural richness. It's a step towards a future where Michigan isn't just known for its lakes and cars but also as a cradle of cinematic artistry and innovation.

Thank you for considering my perspective. Together, we can turn the reel into reality and ensure Michigan's spotlight shines brighter than ever.

Warm regards,

Nigel Robbins



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Sampled Recordings <sampledrecordings@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:22 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: House Bills 4907 and 4908

Charles Bletstein (IATSE Local 38) (Detroit)
12869 Dixie
Redford, Mi 48239
chuckdaniels@me.com
313-573-7771

Our city needs these incentives back. Not only will it improve our economy but it will provide jobs for the people of Michigan. These bills are vital to growing our creative class, drawing jobs back to the state and keeping students here in Michigan. Let's give back to our city!!!!

I support House Bills 4907 and 4908

--

Best,
Charles Bletstein
IATSE Local 38 Detroit

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Bradley Knopf <bradknopf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 11:45 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: Nicholas Gewirtz; alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: I support House Bills 4907 and 4908! -Bradley Knopf Ferndale Resident, Film professional

Bradley Knopf
1030 W. Lewiston Avenue
Ferndale MI, 48220

bradknopf@yahoo.com
248-705-6590
Member I.A.T.S.E. Local 38

Chairman Hoskins-

I am writing to express my support of House Bills 4907 and 4908. I urge you to support and move forward these two bills, which will bring back major media production to our state by making us competitive with the 35 states that currently offer production incentives.

I began working in film production in 1988. Feature films were a small portion of my film and video career, (which included commercials, corporate videos and the like), until the 2008 Michigan Film Incentives were passed.

After that point for the next several years I worked almost exclusively on feature films and was able to comfortably support my family as the sole working parent- allowing my wife to stay home with our two young children. I was able to provide good healthcare for my family and also save for retirement. As one production ended, there was usually another film not far behind, offering steady employment.

The wages and benefits from working on feature productions are excellent. Many film crew positions require more in the way of schedule flexibility than a college degree, though the high tech effects departments of modern film production do require people who have been educated in those fields. The takeaway is that the film industry offers excellent opportunities for people across a range of different creative talents and education levels.

Local businesses and vendors in our state also stand to profit from a strong media production environment. Movies and television shows require large amounts of supplies and resources, such as lumber, paint, food, office space, office equipment, signage, vehicle rentals, and housing- pretty much every type of business you find in everyday life.

In 2008, when Michigan announced its film incentives, there was an **immediate** influx of films, some of which had been about to begin shooting in other states- but picked up and came to Michigan. I believe that the moment Michigan announces this new plan, it will generate results. I am aware of some of the major elements of this new incentive offering, and how it emulates long-term successful incentive plans in other states, and addresses the major criticisms that were leveled against the 2008 plan.

By offering a transferable tax credit rather than a payout by the state, this new incentive plan will not only keep money in the state, it will encourage repeat business by the productions companies. Please do your utmost to make HB 4907 and HB 4908 a reality.

Thank you-

Bradley Knopf



Virus-free www.avast.com

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: J Rogers <boocoo411@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:07 PM
Subject: House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello

Please support **House Bills 4907 and 4908.**

As a person raised, educated and working in Michigan I've worked in the multi- media business for over 30 years and have made a good living mostly as a commercial Lighting Director.

These House Bills are very much needed for this industry to have any chance of keeping hard working tax paying people in this state as well as attracting many future Michiganders here.

While previous laws were flawed, and abused by some of the people that were here only for self righteous money stealing purposes, the new House Bills are set up to protect against all of that and create jobs and grow our infrastructure much more soundly and for years to come.

We had a good thing going before but passing these Bills would make Michigan a great place to stay and prosper in this growing media field.

Please pass **House Bills 4907 and 4908.**

Best Regards,

Jim Rogers

IATSE Local #38

boocoo411@gmail.com

248-765-3777

4211 Custer Ave.

Royal Oak, MI 48073



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: andriy@peoplepc.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:01 PM
To: Nicholas Gewirtz
Subject: FW: re House Bills 4907 and 4908

From: andriy@peoplepc.com <andriy@peoplepc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:59 PM
To: 'Jasonhoskins@house.mi.gov' <Jasonhoskins@house.mi.gov>
Cc: 'ngewirtz@house.mi.gov.' <ngewirtz@house.mi.gov.>
Subject: re House Bills 4907 and 4908

Andriy B. Pereklita
3585 Windemere Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Representative Hoskins,

I'm writing to you as a representative of the hundreds of motion picture technicians who have made Michigan our home. As a Prop Master, I have had the privilege to work in an industry which has provided me and my family with steady income for many of the forty years I have been a union film technician. At the same time, I have to say, that the industry here in Michigan needs the bills you are considering in committee. As I said, I have worked in this industry for over 40 years. I have filmed in many States and Canadian Provinces, and while working outside of Michigan can be exciting, it separates us from our loved ones often for months at a time. I gave up the road when my daughter was born 27 years ago, because I wanted to be home to see her first steps, and hear her first words. For many of us, those simple pleasures disappeared when Governor Snyder rescinded the film incentive in Michigan. Many of my colleagues packed up their families and moved to Louisiana, California and Georgia, where they could continue to make a good living, while being close to their families. The rest of us tried to make ends meet here, by working theater, or simply abandoning the work we so desperately love, making movies and TV shows, and commercials. My testimonial is simple: Michigan needs alternative jobs and careers for those of us who thrive on working in creative industries. Most motion picture workers thrive on solving the puzzles and stepping up to the challenges of recreating reality for the screen. I have worked on films where we have recreated the past, foretold the future, examined life from the point of a wrongly convicted man. Each had challenges, each was fulfilling in that the final product, the work of hundreds of creative people, was something that helped our audience be entertained, learn, laugh and cry.

I strongly urge you to keep up the work of your committee, and to bring House Bills 4907 and 4908 to a vote in the Michigan House of Representatives soon, so that this Great State can continue to make movies and commercials for the world to see.

Thank you for your time, and for your hard work,

Sincerely,

Andriy Pereklita
Prop Master
andriy@peoplepc.com
313-570-1803



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: MAdler <madler@vaidigital.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:29 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18)
Cc: Nicholas Gewirtz; Alexander Page
Subject: Supporting MJA HB4907-4908

I am Mark Adler of Novi.

I am a small business owner and equipment owner working in the film and television industry for over 30 years.

I have watched as Michigan's commercial and film industries shrank and work dissolved since 2001. At that point I became involved.

I started talking to people and bringing them together under the banner of the Michigan Production Alliance. We organize demonstrations and information events and have been for over 20 years.

We have seen our membership rise and fall based on film and television, corporate work. We hear the stories of people benefiting and trying to grow... And those of people leaving Michigan for more steady work.

We know, and we speak for our members who like me, support the Michigan MultiMedia Jobs Act. HB 4907 and 4908.

We represent educated veteran crew as well as kids who'd like to work in their home state.

We urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.

Mark Adler
24265 Jamestowne Rd
Novi, MI 48375
3134770566

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Jake Maxwell <jake@rhinomediaproductions.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:39 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Letter of Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello, my name is Jacob Maxwell. I am a cinematographer, employed full-time at a production company called Rhino Media in Kalamazoo.

House bills 4907 and 4908 are important to me and my community. I have been working in film for the last 12 years. I love Michigan, I love living near my family, and I never was excited about the idea of moving far away and starting over.

We have what it takes in Michigan. Even just on the west side of the state, my team, as well as our competitors in our region, produce top of the line, award winning work that is aired on major networks year after year. The way we see it, Hollywood is on the way down, and local markets are on the way up.

However, we need to level the playing field. Many large shows, movies and commercials that are moving to local markets do not consider Michigan as an option because we do not have film industry incentives.

House bills 4907 and 4908 would give me the chance as a cinematographer to continue paying taxes in my hometown while achieving my career goals. Currently, I don't have that option. The clock is ticking away for everyone until they finally have to leave the state to further their career.

It wasn't always like this, and it doesn't have to continue like this. Please pass house bills 4907 and 4908 and bring Hollywood back to Michigan.

Jake Maxwell
Director of Photography
5506 Clato St. Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-330-6324
RHINO.MEDIA





Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Jack Bruce <jackrbuce@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: Alexander Page; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Dear Chairman Rep Jason Hoskins and Committee Clerk Nick Gewirtz,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bills 4907 and 4908, which aim to rejuvenate Michigan's film industry. As a freelance camera operator working in the state, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by individuals like myself in finding consistent work opportunities.

Over the past year, the scarcity of jobs within the local film industry has become increasingly evident. Many talented production artists, including myself, have been compelled to seek employment in other states like California, New York, Florida, and Georgia. This trend not only deprives Michigan of its creative talents but also undermines our ability to compete effectively in the broader industry landscape.

It is crucial to recognize that the film industry encompasses more than just the glitz and glamour of on-screen productions. Behind every successful project lies a network of support services, including car rentals, accommodations, catering, and more, all of which contribute significantly to the local economy. However, without competitive incentives in place, we struggle to attract and retain projects within our state.

Passing House Bills 4907 and 4908 would mark a significant step towards leveling the playing field for Michigan's film industry. By offering incentives, we can create an environment where local businesses and talent can thrive, fostering growth and innovation within our creative community.

Personally, I am deeply invested in the prospect of building a sustainable career in Michigan's film industry. Despite the challenges we face, I remain committed to realizing this dream and contributing to the state's cultural and economic prosperity.

Furthermore, the passage of these bills would not only benefit seasoned professionals like myself but also provide invaluable opportunities for recent graduates and aspiring filmmakers to establish themselves within their home state.

I urge you, as our esteemed lawmakers, to support House Bills 4907 and 4908. By doing so, you will not only empower individuals like myself to pursue our passions but also ensure that Michigan remains a vibrant hub for creativity and innovation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will make the choice that best serves the interests of our state and its citizens.

Sincerely,
Jack Bruce
jackrbuce@gmail.com
2486333190
888 Madison Birmingham, MI 48009



April 15, 2024

Michigan House Economic Development and Small Business Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol
3-South
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Regarding: **Multimedia Jobs Act, House Bills 4907-4908**

To Who This May Concern:

My name is Marvin Towns Jr. and I stand in strong support of **House Bills 4907-4908 aka the Multimedia Jobs Act** because this program points to job opportunity, increased tourism and a stimulated local economy plus retention of the productive creative community in our state of Michigan.

As a working 40+ years director/producer <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0870040/> and longtime resident of Bloomfield Hills, this program will help retain and bring jobs to Michigan, and will stop the exodus of young creatives to states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, California, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Personally, since the prior film incentive was scrapped in 2015, I've produced about a dozen projects with production budgets in the millions of dollars in other states when I would have preferred to keep that money here in Michigan and in the pockets of Michigan crew members and vendors.

I've been involved in the production of over 50 films and television series in my career and Michigan has some of the best behind and in-front of the camera talent that I've ever had the pleasure of working with!

I'm painfully aware that this decision by our state legislators is not to be taken lightly as there are voices on both sides of the bills—however, I know many of the people with the Michigan Film Industry Association and I have the upmost respect and support for these individuals as a team that will work with the state to ensure that the program is not abused.

I think that any film incentive program needs the support of the residents and the business community to thrive and be successful and from what my own personal polling shows—this program has both.

This program is good for Michigan and will only get better with time and support.

Sincerely,



Marvin Towns Jr.
4630 W. Maple Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301



Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Kris Bargaen <kris@krisbargaen.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:29 PM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@gmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for House Bills 4907 and 4908

Hello,

I'm writing today in support of House Bills 4907 and 4908, the Michigan Multimedia Jobs Act (MMJA).

I am a freelance cinematographer, motion designer and unreal artist working in virtual production. I work full time on the marketing team at Rocket Mortgage and also am a partner at Cart And Horse Studios, a studio focusing on motion design studio and virtual production. My years of experience are really aligning with the virtual production technology. I know there are a few stages in Michigan, Golden Hour being the one leading the way and more in talks in both Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and greater Detroit. This is exciting especially given the limitations of our seasons in the Midwest. We are still a startup and actively growing our business.

We find ourselves at a time of new opportunity. However, the absence of a robust incentive program in Michigan for multimedia companies is not just a gap; it's a barrier that stifles the growth of our company because work goes to other states that offer more supportive environments for multimedia work. I've had to personally leave Michigan to find work and work remote with organizations in other states. It's an agonizing decision - leaving my home, my family, and my community just to pursue my passion. But with the passage of the Multimedia Jobs Act, Michigan crew members like me can return to the Mitten State, reignite our careers, and invigorate the local economy with our specialized talents.

The MMJA presents a crucial opportunity to address this disparity and position Michigan as a competitive, attractive destination for multimedia production. The success of the MMJA is important to unleashing an industry here in Michigan because we have the talent.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to collaborate on making this vision a reality

Kristopher Bargaen
Kris@krisbargaen.com
517-410-7480
621 E SIBLEY ST. HOWELL, MI 48843





April 19, 2024

The Dickinson Area Economic Development Alliance (The Alliance) is writing in support of the Michigan Multimedia Jobs Act as an important economic opportunity for the modern media production industry.

The Alliance is the leader in stimulating economic development in the Dickinson County area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Alliance joins business, industry, education, government, and community organizations to grow the region's economy by retaining, recruiting, and growing talent for our growing employer base as well as promoting business retention & expansion, government relations & advocacy, and infrastructure & housing development. Through marketing & branding efforts, The Alliance tells the unique story of a robust community in which to live and work.

The Alliance engages in multimedia story-telling to share the narrative of the Dickinson County area lifestyle by partnering with media professionals. We are fortunate to have a growing media company based in our community – Mountain Media House – that has the talent and expertise to produce high-quality material.

The partners that founded Mountain Media House are natives of the area, but had left Michigan for experience in the industry on both coasts of the U.S. and some major cities in between. The founders returned to the area to be closer to family and started Mountain Media House after observing the lack of media services available locally. The team currently has a staff of four, along with one high school student intern they are mentoring in the industry.

One Mountain Media House founder is an experienced filmmaker who has led the NORTHBOUND series and NORTHSTAR film production for the last several years, entirely filmed and produced in the Upper Peninsula. <https://www.northstarsaga.com/> The world premiere of the film NORTHBOUND: The Final Chapter will be held in Iron Mountain on December 9, 2023. While the group was successful in completing this production, the project spanned multiple years. Having incentives available to the project would have shortened the timeline and certainly removed some financial hurdles that the group has worked for years to overcome.

We welcome the purposeful cultivation of creative and technical-based talent in the state of Michigan and especially in our home area, Dickinson County. We urge our elected officials to pass the Michigan Multimedia Jobs Act, setting the stage for increased development of a multimedia and creative-based talent pipeline and robust multimedia industry in Michigan.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "mym".

Mindy Meyers
Executive Director

Nicholas Gewirtz

From: Cart & Horse <hey@cartandhorse.studio>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 8:38 AM
To: Rep. Jason Hoskins (District 18); Nicholas Gewirtz
Cc: alexanderpage77@hotmail.com; haddads@haddadsinc.com
Subject: Support for Multimedia Jobs Act - House Bills 4907 and 4908

I am writing this email to submit my support for the House Bills 4907 and 4908. As a business co-owner and multimedia professional, these bills will help our business grow significantly and allow us to employ, build back up and grow the talent pool in the state of Michigan. Virtual production has been a growing industry for entertainment, enterprise, and commercial work. There is a lot of talent in the state that has been growing, but the amount of professionals that have left the state due to a lack of opportunities and want to move back is very high.

The growth has already started in Detroit and Grand Rapids, but these bills could help grow these creative markets in other cities like Lansing and Kalamazoo, which would help bolster and bridge the gaps across the state. I personally grew up in the Lansing area and have watched almost everyone that I know who has pursued a creative industry leave the state. I had even left the state to California for a stretch of time and was fortunate enough to find work in the tech industry to help kick off my career and work on finding an avenue that allows my family and I to stay in Michigan. Many of my friends, family, and students that I have mentored at universities (specifically MSU) have all talked about how much they want to move back to or remain in Michigan after college, but the opportunities and talent aren't here.

These tax incentives can do a great service to increase these industries and help circulate this money back into Michigan's economy. That will have a domino effect to encourage good talent to remain here and prove to college graduates that you don't need to move to the coasts to succeed in these industries. Thank you for your consideration and I personally am determined to build Michigan as a creative powerhouse that will rival any other coastal city.

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To whom it my concern,

Please accept this letter of support for House Bills 4907 & 4908. As Vice President of the Midwest Chapter of AICP I work closely with 100's of companies across the country and I have seen how these forms of incentives can drive work out of states with no incentives to places like Georgia, Louisiana, Illinois etc. Several major brands dictate to their agency partners that they must shoot in states that have incentives. In Illinois, several major brands take advantage of these incentives on a regular basis. In Detroit, the automotive industry alone produces thousands of commercials every year which originate with brands and agencies in Michigan, but the projects end up being shot and produced elsewhere as there is no incentive to shooting in Michigan. That's millions and millions of dollars in lost revenue for companies like mine and for the state.

As President/Partner of Cutters Studios with offices in multiple states including Michigan and Illinois, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Film Incentive has had on the commercial industry in Illinois. Numerous agencies and brands flock to Illinois to shoot their commercials due to the Tax Credit. Cutters Studios and several other Illinois companies have benefited greatly from having more work stay in our state and not head out to the coasts or to another state with an incentive. With our office in Detroit, we would welcome an incentive that would encourage more commercial work to be done in the state of Michigan.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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