



**LETTERS OF SUPPORT  
FOR HOUSE BILL 8180**





## WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Representative, Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Via email: [rep-abney@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-abney@rilegislature.gov)

Re: **HB 8180 - Amendments to the RI Production Incentive Program**

Dear Chair Abney:

I am writing to urge passage of HB 8180, which makes necessary clarifying amendments to the Rhode Island Motion Picture Production Tax Credit Program. This bill eliminates any confusion around the administration of the tax credit program in Rhode Island in relation to how film industry vendors are treated regarding eligibility. Currently, there is a conflict between the plain reading of the statute and how the rules are applied in practice by the State during final review of an application, which has led to confusion for the industry.

Warner Bros. Discovery is the producer of feature film and television programming in locations around the world with such brands as Warner Bros. Pictures, HBO, WBTV, Food Network, and HGTV. Our HBO show *The Gilded Age* has showcased the history and beauty of Rhode Island in both of its seasons and would like to return for the third season. The foundation of a successful production incentive is consistency and reliability, which requires the rules to be clear and unambiguous at the outset when a studio is determining where to film. The language in HB 8180 will provide assurances needed when making business decisions and will put Rhode Island in line with the rules of other prominent production centers around the world, including neighboring states.

Again, we respectfully urge your support for HB 8180 as written. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [michael.walbrecht@wbd.com](mailto:michael.walbrecht@wbd.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Walbrecht', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Walbrecht

cc: Steven Feinberg, Rhode Island Film & Television Office  
Josh Levin, MPA  
Lex Pascual, WBD  
Jay Roewe, HBO

4000 Warner Blvd. Burbank, CA 91522  
[Michael.walbrecht@wbd.com](mailto:Michael.walbrecht@wbd.com)

# Paramount Pictures

Motion Picture Group  
5555 Melrose Avenue  
Hollywood, CA 90038-3197  
323-956-5719

Mathew Ferrante  
Vice President  
Physical Production

May 6, 2024

The Office of Representative Marvin Abney  
12 Summer St.  
Newport, RI 02840

Re: Rhode Island HB 8180

Dear Representative Abney:

I am a Vice President of Physical Production at Paramount Pictures, and I recently oversaw the production planning and budgeting for *Good Burger 2*, which filmed in Rhode Island. It has come to my attention that House Bill 8180 would simplify how qualified expenditures in Rhode Island are defined, and I write to you today to share how valuable the bill's passage would be for productions filming in the Ocean State.

One challenge facing Rhode Island is that there are often resources needed by production that cannot be obtained in the state, such as camera gear, specialty vehicles, and grip & electric equipment. The current system, which relies on using "pass-through" companies with brick-and-mortar presences in the state to procure and bill for the items, is cumbersome for the state to audit and creates uncertainty for productions. If such essential expenditures are rejected during audit, it could be detrimental to a project and would make it difficult for that studio or production company to decide to return.

By qualifying all expenditures in Rhode Island under the common "used and consumed" model, HB8180 would give a predictability and confidence in the program in a critical way. Rhode Island would align itself with its competitors like Massachusetts, New York and other states domestically and places like the UK abroad.

When trying to determine where a project will shoot, there is nothing worse than uncertainty. HB8180 would shore up this shortfall of the current program and give productions the confidence to know that what they expect to quality will do exactly that in the end.



Mathew Ferrante  
Vice President, Physical Production  
Paramount Pictures



Dear Chair Abney,

I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 8180. This bill, which aims to enhance the film and television production incentive program in Rhode Island, is crucial not only for the growth of the local film industry but also for local filmmakers like myself, who are eager to bring their creative visions to life in our beautiful home state.

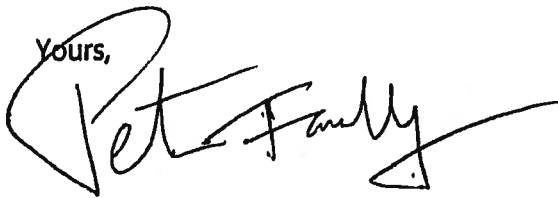
Rhode Island's landscapes, historic sites, and vibrant communities provide a unique backdrop for filmmaking. However, without a competitive production incentive program, filmmakers like myself are forced to fly to Atlanta or Australia to make a fake Providence--as I just did in my Amazon Prime film Ricky Stanicky. This is beyond silly. Millions of dollars that could be injected into the Rhode Island economy are being spent elsewhere.

By aligning Rhode Island's program with those of other states and countries, House Bill 8180 will undoubtedly attract more film and television productions to the state. It requires hundreds of people to make a movie, and those jobs would be going to Rhode Islanders. And the millions of dollars spent on locations, transportation, housing, and catering--would all be injected into the local economy. On top of that, there are significant tourism benefits from showcasing Rhode Island's unique flavor in movies and television.

Passing this bill is about more than just financial benefits, though. It's also about giving artists the opportunity to tell stories in a place that means something to them. Passing this bill would create jobs and open doors for filmmakers like myself to showcase Rhode Island's beauty on the big screen.

I hope that you and the committee will get behind House Bill 8180. Let's give Rhode Island's film industry the boost it deserves. Thank you for considering my perspective.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Farrelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Peter Farrelly

[Peter@Pjfarrelly.com](mailto:Peter@Pjfarrelly.com)

# **Mark Ruffalo**

200 Park Ave South NYC, NY 10003

212-768-4500

Ruffaloasst@gmail.com

May 6, 2024

Chairman Marvin Abney

House Finance Committee

Rhode Island House of Representatives

One Capitol Hill

Providence, R.I. 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 8180 - MOTION PICTURE TAX CREDITS

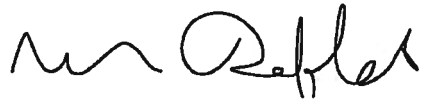
Dear Chairman Abney and Finance Committee,

As a working actor who has had the pleasure of collaborating with many highly-skilled artists and technicians on various productions across the globe, I found that my experience working in Rhode Island for the feature film "INFINITELY POLAR BEAR" was one of my most enjoyable and satisfying. With its diverse locations in close proximity and warm, welcoming spirit of its citizens, the State of Rhode Island is a wonderful place to make movies. The Ocean State is unique!

For that reason, I fully support House Bill 8180. This legislation will help make Rhode Island more transparent and competitive with its neighboring states as well as the many incentive programs popular across the country.

I hope you will vote for the passage of House Bill 8180 and keep Rhode Island's film momentum moving forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ruffalo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Ruffalo

May 6, 2024

**RALPH WINTER**

Chair Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill 8180 - AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - MOTION PICTURE  
PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS**

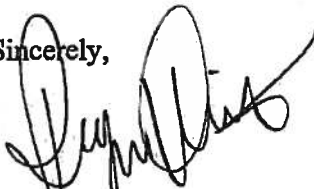
Dear Chair Abney,

As the Executive Producer of Hocus Pocus 2, recently photographed in your great state, and as a working producer in the motion picture business, we always look for the best incentives to produce motion pictures for the studios and streamers.

The skilled technicians and crafts people that make a living working behind the scenes on movie and streaming programming, for studios and independent feature films, and live in Rhode Island and the New England region, are critical for producers to make the most of their money.

On behalf of the producers, I would ask that you and the committee support House Bill 8180 that aims to improve the film and television production incentive program in Rhode Island. The proposed bill clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island will qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture production costs. These changes will make Rhode Island's program more consistent with states that offer similar programs and as a result, keep Rhode Island competitive with those other states. As a result, more productions will come to Rhode Island creating more well-paying union jobs that provide health and retirement benefits and incentivizing more investment in the industry in the state.

Sincerely,



Ralph Winter  
Executive Producer of Hocus Pocus  
A Disney Film Production



# NEW ENGLAND STUDIO MECHANICS IATSE Local 481

*International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians,  
Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories, and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC*

10 Tower Office Park, Suite 218  
Woburn, MA 01801

Phone 781-376-0074

Fax 781-376-0078

May 6, 2024

Chair Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill 8180-AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION—MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS**

Dear Chair Abney,

As the Business Manager for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.) Local 481, I represent 1,350 of the 1,900 I.A.T.S.E. motion picture technicians living and working in New England. These skilled technicians and crafts people make a living working behind the scenes on commercials, television and streaming programming, studio and independent feature films, and documentaries shot in Rhode Island and the New England region.

On behalf of the members of the I.A.T.S.E., I ask that you and the committee support House Bill 8180 that aims to improve the film and television production incentive program in Rhode Island. The proposed bill clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island will qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture production costs.

These changes will make Rhode Island's program more consistent with states that offer similar programs and as a result, keep Rhode Island competitive with those other states. As a result, more productions will come to Rhode Island creating more well-paying union jobs that provide health and retirement benefits and incentivizing more investment in the industry in the state.

The number of Local 481 members living and working in Rhode Island has increased nearly 50% in the last several years. These improvements to the film and television tax incentive program will ensure that trend continues.

Sincerely,

Chris O'Donnell  
Business Manager



Dear Chairman ~~Louis DiPalma~~, *Marvin Abney*,

This is Bobby Farrelly of the Farrelly Brothers. As all Rhode Islanders are aware, my brother Peter and myself take great pride in being from the state of Rhode Island. From the very first movie we ever made (Dumb & Dumber) to our most recent (Ricky Stanicky) we have tried to set our stories in the Ocean State. And we would also love to shoot there as well. Alas, in today's filming environment, it's not our decision alone to make.

The studios, streamers, and production companies we work for usually make the decision about where we get to film, and it always comes down to 2 main things—how beautiful is the landscape where we'll film and how expensive will it be to film there. Beautiful RI always passes the first test, but usually not the second one. So that's why they send us to Atlanta or some such place to duplicate Rhody. Why? Because the tax credits in place there make it a lot less costly. As a result, Georgia and some other states get all the film business, and make millions upon millions of dollars of revenue in the process.

Please help pass House Bill 8180 so that we, and many other filmmakers, can justify filming in RI. It's a win/win, both for us and for the state itself.

Respectfully and sincerely,  
Bobby Farrelly



May 6, 2024

Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: House Bill 8180 - Motion Picture Tax Incentive

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your continued support of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and RI Film & Television Commission. I write to you in strong support of House Bill 8180 which clarifies that all costs of goods and services used and performed in our State of Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture costs.

Over the past few years, there has been some confusion, inconsistency, and unpredictability regarding what qualifies as a Rhode Island production cost. The audit process has been challenging for several production companies utilizing the motion picture incentive program. This very important legislation finally clarifies issues regarding production costs and provides production companies transparency and predictability when determining final qualifying costs effecting their budgets in Rhode Island.

The legislation will further make our state more aligned with our neighboring Massachusetts and a majority of the 40 states with motion picture incentive programs. It will remove any opaqueness and strengthen a "business-friendly" environment so more permanent jobs in the industry can be created. With the Gilded Age, Ella MacKay and others recent productions, Hollywood is putting Rhode Island in the spotlight. We request your support of Bill 8180 to keep us there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne McCormack", is written in a cursive style.

Lynne McCormack  
Executive Director



**GREATER NEWPORT**  
*Chamber of Commerce*

May 6, 2024

Representative Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

Dear Representative Marvin Abney

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce in support of House Bill 8180 related to the Motion Picture Production Tax Credits.

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce is one of the state's largest business advocacy organizations, whose mission is to connect, innovate, enhance, and advocate for the businesses of Greater Newport. As a trusted and reliable institution for over 100 years, the Chamber is a vibrant collective body of the regional business community with nearly 1,000 members representing over 50,000 employees. We work to create valuable strategic partnerships, promote strong economic growth, diversity, and prosperity to serve our members and the community.

House Bill 8180 amends Chapter 44-31.2 of the General Laws, specifically the section entitled "Motion Picture Production Tax Credits," to redefine and clarify certain terms related to the motion picture industry in Rhode Island. The bill introduces new definitions and modifies existing ones to provide a clearer understanding of the qualifications and requirements for motion picture production companies to receive tax credits. Notably, the bill specifies that "state-certified production costs" include costs incurred and paid by a motion picture production company for services and the use of property in Rhode Island for the production of a film.

We believe this will prove to be a great investment for industry, our community and our state's economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at [Erin@NewportChamber.com](mailto:Erin@NewportChamber.com).

Sincerely,

*Erin L. Donovan-Boyle*

Erin Donovan-Boyle  
President and CEO  
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce



**PROVIDENCE  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER**

**220 Weybosset Street**

**May 6, 2024**

**Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903**

**Providence**

**Dear Chairman Abney,**

**Rhode Island**

**Providence Performing Arts Center is in full support of House Bill 8180 which aims to create predictability for Producers that have been qualified for the Motion Picture Tax Credit. House Bill 8180 clarifies that all costs of goods and services purchased or performed in the State of Rhode Island shall qualify as a state certified cost for the Rhode Island Motion Picture Tax Credit.**

**02903-3783**

**This clarification will align Rhode Island with a vast majority of our bordering states that we are in direct competition with. We appreciate your continued support.**

**Tel: 401 421-2997**

**Respectfully,**

**Fax: 401 421-5767**

**J. L. "Lynn" Singleton  
President & CEO, Providence Performing Arts Center**

**Website:  
[www.ppacri.org](http://www.ppacri.org)**

**General Email:  
[info@ppacri.org](mailto:info@ppacri.org)**

**WEINBERG & CO., LLP**

**Certified Public Accountants +  
Business Advisors**

Carl Weinberg, CPA  
William L. Myers, CPA  
Dean Weinberg, CPA  
Stephen Dawson, CPA  
Kimberly Wyman, CPA  
Steven A. Miller, CPA  
Stephen Adamowicz, CPA  
Alan Lockhart, CPA  
David Lieng, CPA  
Yaming Zheng, CPA

May 6, 2024

House Finance Chairman Marvin Abney

Weinberg & Co., LLP has been involved in the Rhode Island motion picture production tax credit program since its inception. I have personally worked closely with the studios during the examination engagements that our firm has performed. This tax credit program generates significant income for the State of Rhode Island while creating numerous jobs for the residents of Rhode Island. We feel that it would be detrimental to the state of Rhode Island and its residents if this bill is not passed. Production companies would no longer find it cost-effective to film productions in the state Rhode Island and will go to other states that are more film-making friendly.

I am asking for your support for the Rhode Island House Bill 8180 as I truly believe that this bill is incredibly important to allow Rhode Island to not only survive but to continue to grow in the film-making industry.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Wyman, CPA, Partner  
Weinberg & Co., LLP

The Summit West, Suite 350  
300 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI 02886  
401-737-6300 · fax 401-737-0373

WEINBERGCPAS.COM



**RE: House Bill #8180-** Clarifies that all costs of goods used, and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified production costs.

Dear House Finance Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing in support of the work of The Rhode Island Film and Television Office and House Bill #8180. This bill is essential for the continual growth of the film and television industry in the Ocean State, and on behalf of the hospitality industry in Newport, we ask for your support.

This bill will clarify that all costs of goods used, and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture production costs.

This bill will set us apart from the other states and provide for the continued growth and development of film production in Rhode Island and bring cultural economic benefits. It will make Rhode Island more attractive and competitive with the other states vying for these film productions.

Here in Newport and Bristol Counties we have been lucky to have served as the "back lot" for many successful commercials, television series, films, documentaries, and streaming programming. Current examples, such as the HBO series the Gilded Age, and Hocus Pocus II, filmed scenes in a variety of locations around Newport, at the mansions, as well as other towns in the state.

These productions also created a surge in visitation to the destination, for "Film tours" and or to witness firsthand the filming of these productions from afar.

This is a perfect example of "Set Jetting" in a destination; visitors flocking to a location to experience the location shoots of a real-life movie set.

On behalf of Discover Newport, thank you for your support of RI House bill #8180

Sincerely,

Kathryn Farrington  
Vice President of Marketing  
Discover Newport  
44 Long Wharf Mall | Newport, RI 02840 USA  
p 401-845-9117  
e [KFarrington@DiscoverNewport.org](mailto:KFarrington@DiscoverNewport.org)

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
R.I. House Finance Committee  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau (PWCVB), I would like to express our support for House Bill 8180, which clarifies that all costs of goods and services purchased in Rhode Island that relate to film production shall qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture production costs.

The film industry in Rhode Island has wide-reaching effects. It is a powerful economic driver, bringing both jobs and revenue to the Ocean State. And it is a strong partner in the efforts of tourism organizations like the PWCVB, as we market the destination to visitors worldwide. Like the regional tourism marketing entities, the Film Commission must compete against other destinations with larger budgets to attract lucrative business for Rhode Island. This bill helps make that fight a little less fierce.

We hope you will support their excellent work.

Sincerely,



Kristen L. Adamo  
President & CEO

# (add)ventures

May 5, 2024

Representative Marvin Abney  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI

**Subject: Support for Film Industry Tax Credits in Rhode Island, House Bill 8180**

Dear Representative Abney:

I am writing to express my steadfast support for House Bill 8180 that will contribute to the economic vitality of our state. Such incentives are not only vital tools for attracting film productions but also serve as economic generators for local businesses and production companies like (add)ventures.

Our agency had the privilege of hosting James Brooks, his cast and crew of the *Ella McKay* production, in a rental scenario by (add)ventures, including our studios, facilities, and lot. This collaboration was not just a business transaction but a morale boosting partnership for everyone involved.

It came during a crucial period when my team of 80+ at my East Providence HQ was navigating the challenges and negative impacts of the bridge crisis. This production brought much-needed optimism and economic activity to our area. I know it had a profound impact on the Providence side of the bridge too.

I've spent 35 years growing a business here in RI, my home. I moved my business here after starting it in Boston to come home. I had to create my own business to come home. Some say I left millions on the "Boston" table to do so, but it has been worth every penny personally if not professionally.

I never doubted the talent and passion here, but frankly the common sense business breaks are not business-friendly. It is simply easier to scale a business faster elsewhere. Our LATAM gateway office in Miami for example, is booming. I wish I could move those jobs to RI but the opportunities there are endless.

Our engagement with the *Ella McKay* film production is only because of film tax credits. Likewise, HB8180 can help overcome the rampant cynicism, profound negativity and collective low self esteem that keeps holding RI back and behind other economies.

Let's use HB8180 to energize Rhode Island as a creative hub. We have talent and passion that rivals anywhere. HB8180 will uplift our economy and enhance the cultural confidence of all Rhode Island Entrepreneurs.



# (add)ventures

We stand with Steve Feinberg in our belief that HB8180 will help further transform our state into a sought-after destination for filmmakers.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Rosa  
CEO + Founder  
(add)ventures  
20 Risho Avenue  
East Providence, RI  
Srosa@addventures.com



**TAX  
INCENTIVE  
FINANCE**

To: House Chairman Marvin Abney

I am writing this letter in support of Bill 8180 which clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in RI shall qualify as State certified RI motion picture production costs.

The Film & Television tax credit legislation that was enacted in 2005 has become an integral part of the Rhode Island economy. I have personally seen how this legislation has directly resulted in the creation of an entire new industry in Rhode Island that has trained and employed thousands of people since its enactment.

This clarification to the existing legislation helps to decipher what will qualify as an eligible cost for purposes of calculating the Tax Credit to be earned by a Production filming in RI. Up until now, it has been a confusing process and the audit standards being applied by the Division of Taxation have been inconsistent and often arbitrary. The passage of this Bill will hopefully remove the inconsistency that is currently being applied.

Very Truly Yours,



Anthony Gudas



PROVIDENCE PICTURES

May 6, 2024

Dear Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing in support of House Bill 8180.

My company, Providence Pictures, has produced over 60 films here in RI since we started in 1996. The film tax credit is often perceived as an incentive to bring Hollywood films to our state, but I can tell you that the credit has also benefitted RI-based businesses. It has helped Providence Pictures grow and support me and my employees to raise families here.

House Bill 8180 will do even more. An increased credit equals increased productions, and more productions means more jobs. The Film and Television industry provides a wide range of good paying jobs with opportunities for advancement, its attractive for keeping college graduates here, it's clean, green, and non-polluting.

The tax credit helps private companies like my own invest in equipment and facilities that can be the foundation of a true RI based Film/TV Industry – getting even more work and jobs here.

Please support House Bill 8180 to help grow an even stronger film and television industry here in RI.

Yours,

Gary Glassman, president

Tel. + 1.401.455.1450  
gary@providencepictures.com  
www.providencepictures.com

Providence, RI  
United States

The Honorable Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
RI House of Representatives

Dear Chairperson Abney;

**I am writing in strong support of H-8180 which clarifies that ALL cost of goods used *and* services performed in Rhode Island SHALL qualify as state-certified RI motion picture costs..**

This legislation is vitally important to continue the extraordinary work of RI Film. What they have been able to accomplish in bringing Hollywood to Rhode Island is nothing short of magical. Punching way above his weight, Mr. Feinberg has persuaded the industry influencers that RI is ready and able to make a great offer – on top of everything else we can provide. Beautiful locations, necessary professional resources and expedited cooperation. RI will work tirelessly to be a valued partner.

Government's role has also been invaluable. Having the vision support RI Film has been a big win. In doing so, people are working, the economy is benefitting and the amount of national and international PR is literally incalculable.

I urge the House to support this important legislation which continue to make us attractive and competitive to Hollywood.

Best,

Dante

---

Dante Bellini, Jr | 401.965.4672  
Executive Producer | Director | Chief Hooligan  
[dante@hooliganfilmproductions.com](mailto:dante@hooliganfilmproductions.com)  
[www.hooliganfilmproductions.com](http://www.hooliganfilmproductions.com) [[hooliganfilmproductions.com](http://hooliganfilmproductions.com)]



**HOOIGAN**  
film productions

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**VERDI**  
PRODUCTIONS

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Good afternoon House Chairman Marvin Abney,

My name is Chad A. Verdi. I am the President of Verdi Productions, a film production company located in East Greenwich, Rhode Island for 15 years. I have produced over forty feature films throughout the last decade, including with actors such as Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson, Bruce Willis, Tommy Lee Jones, Megan Fox, Aaron Eckhart, Liam Neeson, Don Johnson, Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Machine Gun Kelly, Tyson Ritter, Heather Graham, Chazz Palminteri, Julia Stiles, Sophia Bush, John Malkovich and countless others. I have produced five films with Martin Scorsese, including the 2019 Netflix film *The Irishman*. More importantly, I am a lifelong Rhode Islander. Over half of my films have been produced in our great state. I am writing today to discuss House Bill 8180. The current rulings of the Rhode Island Film Tax Credit Incentive have made our state an attractive place to film movies. If these current rulings were altered, many of these productions would film in Hollywood or other states with better film tax credit incentives. The rulings mentioned in House Bill 8180 are the bare minimum that any state with a legitimate tax

credit incentive program needs in order to compete with the programs in other states. The more productions I am able to bring to Rhode Island, the more income and job opportunities for everyone in the state. In the past year alone, I was able to bring the film "Chosen Family" to Rhode Island with Heather Graham and Julies Stiles, as well as the documentary "Iron Birds" with Ben Affleck and Matt Damon. As long as the state of Rhode Island keeps qualifying all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island, I will be able to continue bringing Hollywood-level productions to Rhode Island, as well as the hundreds of in-state jobs that those films require. If these rulings were to change, I would not be able to keep bringing multi-million-dollar projects to Rhode Island, and the infrastructure of the state's film industry would take a major hit that would most likely never recover. I hope this does not happen, and that I am able to keep producing films in Rhode Island and contributing to the state's economy for many years to come.

Thank you for your time.

All the best,



Chad A. Verdi  
www.verdifilms.com  
cverdi1396@aol.com  
(401) 569-7202

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

This is in reference to House Bill 8180 concerning the RI Film Tax Credit Incentive. I am a Rhode Island resident who was born here and have spent my entire life living here. Because of the RI Film Tax Credit Incentive, I have never had to leave Rhode Island to pursue a career in my field. At the age of 30 years old, I have produced over 25 feature films. I now own my own production company, LaSalle Productions LLC. In Rhode Island, I have had the opportunity to welcome numerous famous actors to work here, including Megan Fox, Heather Graham, Julia Stiles, Don Johnson, Chazz Palminteri, Sophia Bush, Jamie Chung, Vanessa Angel, Brian Krause, Cerina Vincent, Jennifer Taylor, Jonathan Lipnicki, Dominique Swain, Nicky Whelan and many others. I am living my dream in my home state, and I credit it to Steven Feinberg, the Rhode Island Film Office and the Rhode Island Tax Credit Incentive. Now, myself and my producing partners are employing and training a whole new crop of Rhode Island filmmakers, to show everyone that you do not need to live in Hollywood to pursue a career in this field. It is very important that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island qualify as state certified RI motion picture product costs. These costs in Rhode Island are directly benefiting the economy. Our film productions choose to spend as much as possible within Rhode Island because of this ruling (that all costs of goods and services will qualify for the state tax credit). It encourages all productions to pump as much money as possible into the Rhode Island economy, as well as pay Rhode Island taxes. Through my job, I have worked with these budgets firsthand, and have seen how film productions financially impact the state of Rhode Island in a positive way: labor, food, lodging, supplies, travel, hospitality and much more. I fully support House Bill 8180.

Thank you for your time,

Paul Luba

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

My name is Chad Verdi Jr., proudly hailing from the beautiful shores of Rhode Island. Nearly 15 years ago, my father laid the foundation for Verdi Productions right here in our vibrant community. While Rhode Island may not immediately come to mind in discussions of filmmaking and production, our state's unwavering support has propelled us onto the cinematic map.

Through relentless dedication, we've created a filmmaking ecosystem, providing not only employment opportunities but a place of creativity across our diverse and beautiful landscape. With considerable investments of time, resources, and passion, we're establishing a genuine filmmaking hub in Rhode Island.

Bringing A-list talent to our shores has become a testament to our commitment, with each visit affirming their admiration for our state's allure. Rhode Island's tapestry of diversity, natural beauty, and industrious spirit mirrors the essence of a true filmmaker!

As we continue on this journey, I implore you to stand beside us, offering the support needed to further cultivate this extraordinary foundation right here in Rhode Island. Let's keep growing!

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chad Verdi Jr.

--

Chad Verdi Jr.  
Verdi Productions  
401-954-1133  
[chadjr@verdifilms.com](mailto:chadjr@verdifilms.com)



**VERDI**  
PRODUCTIONS



# Bob Paquette

62 Stubblebrook Road  
West Greenwich, RI 02817  
401-580-2998  
Robertpaquette4@gmail.com

May 6, 2024

To the Honorable House Finance Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing to express my **wholehearted support for Rhode Island House Bill 8180**, *which seeks to clarify that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified RI motion picture production costs.*

As a person who works in the locations department of a motion picture production, I recognize the immense value that the film and entertainment industry bring to the State of Rhode Island, not only in terms of economic impact but also in cultural enrichment and community engagement. **House Bill 8180** represents a crucial step in fostering a thriving environment for film production within the state.

By broadening the definition of state-certified motion picture production costs to include all goods and services performed within Rhode Island, this bill will attract more filmmakers and production companies to choose Rhode Island as their filming destination. This, in turn, will stimulate local businesses, create job opportunities, and further bolster the state's economy. I have seen firsthand many small and large local businesses such as restaurants, coffee shops, lumber yards, hardware stores, rental companies all benefit from the influx of a motion picture production coming to Rhode Island.

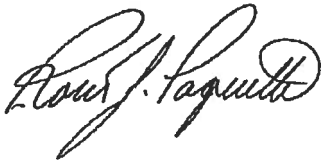
Furthermore, the passage of this bill will provide clarity and certainty to filmmakers and production companies regarding eligible expenses, thereby encouraging greater investment in Rhode Island's film industry. It will also enhance the state's competitive edge in attracting film projects, positioning Rhode Island as a premier destination for film production on both national and international scales.

I commend the efforts of the sponsors and supporters of House Bill 8180 for their dedication to advancing the interests of Rhode Island's film industry. I urge you to give your full support to this important piece of legislation, which promises to yield

significant benefits for the state's economy, culture, and overall well-being.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Paquette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

**Bob Paquette**





FROM THE DESK OF

# DAVID GERE

---

May 3rd, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting this letter in support of House Bill 8180. Upon graduating from Providence College in 1997, I began my career via the emerging Rhode Island film and arts scene of the late 1990's. My career quickly expanded, and I have to date appeared as a professional SAG Union actor in over 70 feature films, television shows and commercials. Roughly half of those were shot and produced in Rhode Island. More impactful to my career now, I am the CEO of Shadow | Vale Productions. I have produced over 100 productions, with more than 40 having been shot and produced in Rhode Island. Together with my partner Chelsea Vale, who moved from Los Angeles, here to work with me, we have produced everything from Hollywood level theatrical films, to our impressive slate of features for streaming networks and studios. We ushered in our current model of films for the Lifetime Television Network and Tubi Studios that we have continually produced over the past several years, and brought many of these productions to Rhode Island.

I firmly believe that House Bill 8180 makes Rhode Island as a choice for filmmakers, a more transparent and more competitive shooting state from our neighboring states and other Motion Picture incentives across the country. This legislation will make the program more predictable, sustainable and effective.

I am very proud that I started my filmmaking journey in Rhode Island, and I have been noted as one of the key players in the current scope of film production in Rhode Island. Much of that has come via the support of these incentives and of course the tremendous support of the RI Film Office.

**Respectfully,**  
**David Gere**  
**CEO / Producer**  
**Shadow | Vale Productions**  
**203.410.6496**  
**davidgere@rocketmail.com**

Gary D. Marinosci

275 West Natick Rd, Warwick, RI 02886  
401.234.9200

May 6, 2024

Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Once Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02904

Re: House Bill 8180 – Motion Picture Production Tax Credits

Dear Chairman Abney,

As the owner and operator of several film production facilities, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 8180. For the past 10 years, we have benefited greatly from the consistent revenue generated by movie production studios. They have continued to be both professional and financially stable tenants, who pay better than market rates for short term leases. These production studios have allowed us to maintain our facilities and pay our city and town taxes as well as our utilities. Many times, these leases were the difference between our properties producing a profit instead of a loss.

I have personally witnessed what these productions do for the local economy, everything from the trades, to hotels, down to the local pizza places and Uber drivers. The ripple effect is instant and recognizable.

We fully support the passing of this bill, to make the film industry in RI even larger and more sustainable for future Rhode Island business.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Marinosci', written over a large, stylized letter 'G'.

Gary Marinosci

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney

I have been a Costume Designer in the Film and Television business for 40 years. I live in beautiful Rhode Island , but have worked in many states around the country where film tax credits are available to Film and Television production companies. Rhode Island has a lot to offer for productions with beautiful locations and a deep and valuable crew base. These companies are very aware of what states offer the best tax credits, competition can be intense and can make or break the decision as to where the best support is to make the filmmaking projects.

House Bill 8180 is valuable in expanding the tax credits as it will clarify the definition of "state certified production costs". We will see more Filmmaking projects here which is the desired outcome. Please vote yes on House Bill 8180.

Respectfully,  
Deborah Newhal

--

*deborah newhall*  
*costume design*  
[studiodcn@gmail.com](mailto:studiodcn@gmail.com)  
401.447.1179 c

Dear  
House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 8180, as a dedicated film and television Location Manager. As someone directly involved in the film industry and its interaction with the community, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the film industry can have on our state's economy and cultural landscape.

One of the primary reasons I am in favor of this bill is the significant boost it provides to our local film industry. By allowing the costs of goods and services in RI to qualify as state certified motion picture production costs we make our incentive more attractive to companies looking to film in Rhode Island. Film production not only creates job opportunities for local residents like me but also stimulates spending in various sectors, including hospitality, transportation, and small businesses that provide services to film crews. It only makes sense that those costs would be considered production costs.

Moreover, the presence of film and television productions in Rhode Island enhances our state's visibility on a national and global scale. When iconic landmarks and picturesque landscapes are featured on screen, it not only showcases the beauty of our state but also serves as a powerful marketing tool for tourism. As a location scout, I take pride in helping to highlight the unique charm and character of Rhode Island to audiences around the world.

With more productions choosing Rhode Island as their filming location, there is a greater incentive for businesses to invest in state-of-the-art facilities and for individuals to pursue careers in various aspects of film production. This leads to a more sustainable and competitive industry that can continue to thrive for years to come.

In conclusion, I believe that House bill 8180 is a crucial step towards bolstering Rhode Island's position as a premier destination for film and television production. As a dedicated member of the local film community, I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation and urge you to support its passage for the benefit of our state's economy, culture, and future prosperity.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Alex Berard  
Location Manager/Scout  
IATSE 481

House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing in support of the House Bill ~~8108~~<sup>8180</sup> which would clarify that all costs of goods and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as State certified RI motion picture production costs.

I am the owner of Seaview Terrace, the largest privately owned mansion in Newport RI and have been fortunate to be a part of Rhode Island's wonderful film industry, spearheaded by Steven Feinberg who has done an incredible job getting major productions to our state. I believe any steps to aid our local industry will grow to foster a greater draw from outside states as well, which would benefit all. Rhode Island has so much to offer as a film, print and production location I am honored to be a part of it under the leadership of Steven Feinberg.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Respectfully,

Denise Carey Bettencourt

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am a RI resident writing this letter in support of Bill 8180. After 30+ years as a makeup artist, 22 as an IATSE 798 Union member, I've seen a lot of our country and others pursuing work. Over 50 films into my career, most of which have been features, and sad to say very few of them have been filmed in Rhode Island! I've been fortunate that with an Emmy nomination and 3 makeup artist guild nominations, I've been able to continue to live in the State I love while continuing to practice the craft I love. This is not without sacrifice. Features generally are a minimum of 4 to 6 months of time away from home! Steven Feinberg's efforts to get a film the level of Ella McCay has been a blessing! To be able to spend 4 months working from home has given me a quality of life rarely experienced in my 30+ year career. I would certainly prefer to work in my home State than have to travel to other States or Countries, so I strongly support Bill 8180.

All my best,  
Elizabeth Bernstrom  
IATSE 798 Makeup Artist  
and RI Resident  
401.447.8112



Robert Capron  
35 Elisha Mathewson Road  
North Scituate, RI 02857  
May 5th, 2024

House Chairman Marvin Abney  
Rhode Island House Finance Committee  
State Capital  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Subject: House Bill 8180

To House Chairman Marvin Abney –

As a former resident of the state of Rhode Island and an active performer/writer in the entertainment industry, I am writing to express my utmost support for House Bill 8180, concerning the clarification of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island qualifying as state-certified RI motion picture production costs.

Having appeared in "The Polka King" and worked with Flickers / the RI Film and Television Office on numerous occasions for people young and old, I have experienced first-hand the wonder and importance of film in our state. Through actors, crew members, production assistants and background extras, I have seen the world of film production alter the course of lives. Anything we can do to ferment that experience for our state should be done.

Please vote in favor of House Bill 8180. Film is an integral part of any community, town, city or state, and my life has been irrevocably changed for the better due to the opportunities afforded me by this industry. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Robert Capron

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I'm Tom DeNucci, a proud native of Rhode Island, where I was born and raised. I wholeheartedly support House Bill 8180. As a filmmaker in my hometown, I've experienced firsthand the unique joy and significance of creating movies in the place I call home. The tax credits provided have been instrumental in enabling me to pursue my passion locally. By qualifying all costs of goods used and services performed for movie use, we can further enhance the appeal of Rhode Island as a filmmaking destination, attracting talent and investment while enriching our cultural landscape and boosting our state's economy through the creative arts.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial initiative.

Best regards, Tom DeNucci

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney:

As we have happily shared with Chairman DiPalma and Steven Feinberg on numerous occasions, we (as producers of THE GILDED AGE) highly value the ongoing relationship we have with the State of Rhode Island and so many of your residents and organizations. For us, the film incentives have been a vital part of the equation that has allowed us to film in Rhode Island on a continuing basis and any adjustments that you are exploring would surely serve to expand the amount time and dollars spent in your great state.

Sincerely,  
David Crockett  
Executive Producer  
THE GILDED AGE

May 5, 2024

Chairman Marvin Abney  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing in support of House Bill 8180.

It is essential to allow all costs of goods and services performed in RI to qualify as state certified RI Motion Picture production costs.

This meaningful measure allows the state to continue to be competitive in attracting lucrative business. Business that provides essential jobs.

Business, that through the series of successful film and televisions projects produced here each year, projects the myriad of merits and sheer beauty of this State to all the world.

Regards,

Scot Finck

369 Love Lane  
Warwick, RI 02886

May 5, 2024

Representative Marvin Abney  
RI House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Abney:

We are writing in strong support of House Bill 8180, which qualifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in RI shall qualify as State Certified RI Motion Picture Production costs. We have worked on many productions during the past 20 years.

The thriving TV and Motion Picture industry here in RI should benefit as completely as possible from the tax credit.

Thank you,  
Angela Ryding, SAGAFTRA  
Bill Ryding, SAGAFTRA

Mr. Steven Feinberg,  
Fully support House Bill 8180, Rhode Island is two steps away to be more productive and competitive in the Motion Picture, Television and Television Commercial Industry, which is why this bill should be granted.

This bill will add more jobs and revenue for the people and state of Rhode Island and it makes no sense of going backwards, when all state officials related to the film industry have worked hard on all aspects of attracting production companies to Rhode Island. They need this bill passed, to make the state of Rhode Island more attractive worldwide to the film and television industry.

So step up and pass House Bill 8180 for the people of Rhode Island, the economy and for the state, it's the only intelligent choice.

Respectfully,  
Steve Vieira  
SJV Enterprises  
Talent Manager/Agent

Representative Marvin Abney  
House Finance Chairman

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing in full support of House Bill 8180, which clarifies that costs of all goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified motion picture production costs and be eligible for the Motion Picture Tax Credit.

This important legislation has been a long time coming. Since Division of Taxation audits began, productions have been burdened by having to prove that totally necessary expenses such as pencils, portable restrooms and other goods and services required to do business in our state should count towards their tax credit.

Passage of this bill will streamline the final process allowing a production to claim their tax credit and will strengthen Rhode Island's attractiveness as a prime filming location in a very competitive landscape.

Let's cut the red tape so productions can do the same!

Best,  
Carol Conley  
401-787-7446

Dear Chairman Abney,

I rarely speak in favor of bills, but I feel compelled to join others in support of Bill 8180's clarification that the cost of all goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified RI motion picture production costs.

As a resident of RI (122 Riverside Drive, Riverside), I have been very proud of Steve Feinberg's untiring efforts to convince filmmakers that RI is THE place to film. Thanks to his efforts to make RI an enticing production site, little Rhody competes successfully with long-time production settings such as those in California. Surely not only our reputation but also our economy benefits when Bette Middler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Woody Harrelson stay in our sleeping rooms and rave on social media about our restaurants. Of course, other businesses and local actors also benefitted from new production-related work that came to them.

I happened to be at the Hope Club, for example, when Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker were staying at the Hope Club. They both told me in a brief chat that they were enjoying Providence—and the manager of the Hope Club told me Bette Midler left a \$10,000 gift to the Hope Club.

I hope you and your fellow House members do, indeed, support this bill so important to our state's prosperity and growing reputation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Carriuolo



Dear Chairman Marvin Abney,

My name is Kathryn Meinert, and I wanted to inform you that I support House Bill 8180. I understand that this bill clarifies that all of the costs of goods used, and services performed, in Rhode Island will qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture production costs.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the board members for helping Rhode Island's citizens through this bill.

Being in the film industry, I know first hand that this bill is going to benefit the citizens of Rhode Island. This tax credit will allow the company that I work for to be able to hire more local businesses and citizens of Rhode Island. With this tax credit, it will not only benefit those of us in the industry itself but every business and citizen that is hired throughout each production journey. This bill will help improve Rhode Island's economy immensely.

Thank you,

Kathryn Meinert

Dear Chairman Marvin Abney,

For over twenty-five years I have been championing film tax credits in New England. I introduced film tax credits as a way to bring major studio and television production to our region. Rhode Island led the way under the tutelage of Steven Feinberg.

Make no mistake, for every dollar a movie or television production spends in our region exacts five to seven additional dollars in our marketplace. For example, a set needs to buy wood to build a set. Okay, that could cost \$2000. Well then someone must find and select that wood and the cost must be paid. Then the wood must be put on a truck, then delivered; those people must be paid. Somebody must pay for the gas, and somebody pays for the loading and unloading....

The state of New York has calculated that every dollar spent in motion picture production in its state represents \$7 in additional spending and therefor tax revenue for the state.

I am available to discuss this further as there is much more to consider than wood. It's expansive!

Carol Patton  
Publisher IMAGINE Magazine  
IMAGINE Publishing Inc.  
617 576-0773

[publisher@imagineneeds.com](mailto:publisher@imagineneeds.com)

[www.imagineneeds.com](http://www.imagineneeds.com) [imagineneeds.com]

The Business and Art of Film & Television Production in New England  
Champion of NE Film Tax Incentives

**To: House Chairman Marvin Abney**

**Address: 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI**

**Re: House Bill 8180**

**Date: 5/5/24**

**Dear Chairman Abney,**

**I am writing in support of House Bill 8180 which is specific to the Motion Picture Tax Credit.**

**It is important that all RI based companies involved in TV and Film Productions, can benefit**

**from the Tax Credit! As a native of Cranston, RI I have been working in Marketing and Media**

**my entire career while raising two wonderful children. Passing this Bill supports the local**

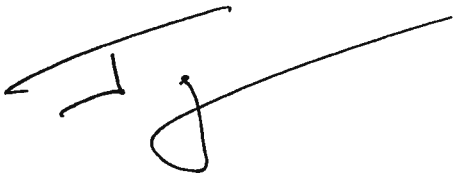
**economy and provides greater transparency for the overall qualification process.**

**Sincerely,**

**John Cooney**

**93 Bretton Woods Drive**

**Cranston, RI 02920**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Cooney', written over a horizontal line.

**May 7, 2024**

**House Chairman Marvin Abney**

**82 Smith Street**

**Providence, RI 02903**

**Re: House Bill #8180**

**Dear House Chairman Abney,**

**I am the Administrative Assistant for the Rhode Island Film and Television Office, and I am writing in support of House Bill #8180. Currently, there is much confusion and uncertainty about who qualifies as a certified vendor when using the tax credits in our state. This bill would clarify that all costs of goods and services performed in Rhode Island would qualify as state-certified RI motion picture production costs. This is an important and much-needed bill that would provide transparency, credibility and consistency within the tax incentive program as it relates to certified vendors. It also serves the greater good of making RI a desired location for production companies. Finally, it is a win for our local businesses and economy!**

**Sincerely,**



**Judith Cooney**

**93 Bretton Woods Drive**

**Cranston, RI 02920**

**781.738.3739**

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 8180, which I believe is a critical piece of legislation for the future of Rhode Island's film industry.

As a member of the film community here in Rhode Island, I understand firsthand the importance of the tax credit provided by House Bill 8180. This bill not only incentivizes filmmakers to choose Rhode Island as a filming location but also ensures that our local industry remains competitive and sustainable.

The tax credit has played a pivotal role in allowing us to continue producing films right here in Rhode Island. It has enabled us to hire local talent, utilize local services, and support a myriad of businesses throughout the state. I have personally witnessed how this tax credit has provided countless Rhode Islanders with gainful employment opportunities, thereby contributing to the overall prosperity of our community.

Moreover, the tax credit has had a significant positive impact on the Rhode Island economy. By attracting film productions to our state, it has generated revenue for various local businesses, ranging from catering companies to equipment rental services. This influx of economic activity not only benefits those directly involved in the film industry but also has a ripple effect that reaches far and wide across our state.

For individuals like myself who are passionate about pursuing careers in the film industry, the tax credit provided by House Bill 8180 is invaluable. It has removed barriers and provided opportunities for aspiring filmmakers, allowing us to follow our dreams right here in Rhode Island.

House Bill 8180, which clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified RI motion picture production costs, is essential for the continued growth and success of our film industry infrastructure. I urge you to lend your support to this bill, as it is crucial for preserving the vibrant film community that we have worked so hard to build in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact that House Bill 8180 will have on our state's film industry.

Sincerely, Sera Verdi

Verdi Productions

May 7, 2024

The Honorable House Chairman Marvin Abney  
R.I. House Finance Committee  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 8180

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Scott Saracen, I am currently the acting Deputy Director for the Rhode Island Film & Television Office. Before this role I was a television producer and Emmy Award winning PBS documentary filmmaker for over 26 years.

I am writing today in support of House Bill 8180 which clarifies that all costs of goods used, and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified RI motion picture production costs. This bill would help to eliminate the confusion surrounding the definition of a "Qualified Vendor" and the interpretation of this definition which has resulted in negative outcomes for various participants of the Rhode Island Motion Picture Tax Incentive Program.

The changes to RI General Law §§ 44-31.2-1 through House Bill 8180 will help to make Rhode Island more consistent with other states offering a similar program, thus making us more competitive to attract high quality films and television programs offering well-paying industry jobs, worldwide promotion, and an economic boost to our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and consideration to pass this crucial bill for the successful future of this very important program.

Sincerely,



**Scott Saracen**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Rhode Island Film & TV Office  
Phone: 401-222-3456  
Email: [scott.saracen@arts.ri.gov](mailto:scott.saracen@arts.ri.gov)  
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor  
Providence, RI 02908  
[www.film.ri.gov](http://www.film.ri.gov)

Glenn Ciano  
36 Pojac Point  
North Kingstown, RI

May 6, 2024

Representative Marvin Abney  
12 Summer Street  
Newport, RI

Dear Mr. Chairman,

My name is Glenn Ciano and I am a feature film Director based in Rhode Island. I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 8180, which clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified RI motion picture production costs. This Bill is fundamental in helping to bring more production into our state as well as supporting local production companies. This is essential in growing the entertainment business in RI.

Sincerely,

Glenn Ciano

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

My name is Richard Arlook and I'm a Los Angeles based producer. I had an amazing time shooting in Rhode Island for my film "Space Oddity" and I am hoping to return. I'm reaching out to show my support and stress the importance of passing of House Bill 8180.

Best,  
Richard Arlook



Casey Regan  
11 Genoa Street  
North Providence, RI 02904  
(401) 338-2230

Dear House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 8180, which seeks to clarify that all costs of goods used, and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified motion picture production costs. As a film and television assistant location manager born and raised in Rhode Island, I have witnessed firsthand the economic benefits that film and television production bring to our state.

The film and television industry not only creates jobs and generates revenue during production but also has a lasting impact on our local economy. When a production comes to Rhode Island, it hires local crew members, utilizes local businesses for goods and services, and boosts tourism as viewers are inspired to visit the locations featured on screen.

Moreover, by certifying all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island, House Bill 8180 will encourage more productions to choose our state as a filming location. This will not only increase revenue for local businesses but also raise the profile of Rhode Island as a premiere destination for film and television production.

I urge you to support House Bill 8180 and help ensure that Rhode Island remains competitive in attracting film and television productions. By providing clarity on production costs and supporting the growth of the industry, we can continue to reap the economic and cultural benefits that come with being a thriving hub for filmmaking.

Thank you for considering my input on this important matter. I look forward to seeing House Bill 8180 pass and further strengthen Rhode Island's position in the film and television industry.

Sincerely,

Casey Regan  
(401) 338-2230  
caseyregan94@gmail.com

Subject: Support for House Bill 8180 - Clarification on Rhode Island Motion Picture Production Costs

Dear Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 8180, which aims to clarify that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified RI motion picture production costs. As a resident of Rhode Island and a member of the Director's Guild of America (DGA) serving as a 1st Assistant Director, I am keenly aware of the significant impact this bill could have on the local film industry.

By ensuring that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island qualify as state-certified motion picture production costs, this bill not only incentivizes filmmakers to choose Rhode Island as their filming location but also stimulates economic growth by generating employment opportunities and increasing revenue for local businesses.

As a professional working in the film industry and a proud resident of Rhode Island, I believe that the passage of House Bill 8180 is vital for the continued success and growth of our state's film sector. I urge you to consider the immense benefits this legislation would bring to our community and to lend your support to its passage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am hopeful that with your leadership, House Bill 8180 will receive the support it deserves, paving the way for a thriving and vibrant film industry in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Emma Barber



DGA 1st Assistant Director & Rhode Island Resident

Dear Honorable House Chair Abney

I am writing you today to express my sincere support for House Bill 8180, which clarifies that all costs and goods used, and services performed, in support of a cinematic production in the great state of Rhode Island, shall qualify as state certified Rhode Island motion picture costs.

As production designer of the recent motion picture ELLA McCAY, I feel justified to support this most important bill before the house.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Richard Toyon  
Production Designer  
Ella McCay  
[Toyontree@mac.com](mailto:Toyontree@mac.com)

Dear Chairman Marvin Abney,

I'm writing to you today with a heartfelt plea in support of the proposed tax credit bill. This legislation isn't just about numbers or budgets; it's about dreams coming true and opportunities flourishing right here in Rhode Island.

The film industry is a vibrant community filled with passionate individuals who pour their hearts and souls into their work. The tax credit acts as a lifeline, allowing these stories to be told and these dreams to be chased. Fueled by a burning desire to be part of this magic, I actually moved to Rhode Island specifically to pursue a career in film.

Countless Rhode Islanders I know, myself included, have found fulfilling careers thanks to this program. It's more than just a job; it's a chance to contribute to something bigger, to tell stories that resonate, and to be part of something truly special.

The tax credit doesn't just benefit those directly involved in filmmaking. It creates a ripple effect, spreading its positive impact throughout our state. Local businesses of all kinds – from restaurants and equipment rentals to clothing stores and transportation services – see a boost thanks to productions that film here. It's a win-win for everyone, fostering not just jobs, but a thriving local economy.

For me, (and I know for many others), the tax credit has been a game-changer. It's allowed me to pursue a career I'm truly passionate about, in the state I call home.

By supporting this bill, you're not just supporting an industry, you're supporting dreams, livelihoods, and the very fabric of Rhode Island's creative spirit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Taylor

May 7, 2024

Chairman Marvin L. Abney  
RI House Finance Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

I am writing to you today to voice my support for House Bill 8180. I have been involved in the RI Film scene as an actor since the early days of the tax credits. Then, as a non-union actor and most recently as a member of the Screen Actors Guild. I moved up strictly by working on RI productions.

While I am not a full time actor, the opportunities I have had in Rhode Island have enabled me to gain income doing something I love. I own a seasonal business on Block Island and in the winter I seek acting work.

There is no doubt that the Massachusetts film scene is burgeoning. I feel this bill will give production companies more of an incentive to seek out and film in Rhode Island, as they should, as our state is so much more intimate and close knit with regards to the incredible artistic and technical talent, beautiful scenic locations, and a welcoming atmosphere.

I personally heard this recently as a day player on "Ella Mackay". There were actors from RI, Western Mass, New Hampshire and Maine that day. They all remarked on how easy RI is to work in. So it's not just the production companies spending money here, it's also the talent the production attracts that spend money on local businesses before they go home, restaurants, etc.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Andre' Boudreau

To the attention of House Chairman Marvin Abney:

Dear Representative Abney,

I'm writing to provide my support to House Bill 8180 and hope that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island will qualify for certified production costs towards Rhode Island motion picture tax incentive.

The RI Film & TV office has a long track record of bringing quality productions into the state with a focus on doing the best they can to drive more opportunities in our local communities, including not just crew members, actors, and extras on the sets, but also ensuring that local vendors providing craft services, hotel rooms, drivers, security and more directly benefit from the tax incentive program. While there is certainly a tradeoff on potential tax revenue, these are dollars that would not be coming to the state without a competitive motion picture program.

There are so many benefits to this program, not the least of which are the outsized returns on tourism and marketing value to the state. The ability for local vendors to play even a small part in Rhode Island based productions has a direct financial benefit to them but also brings a sense of pride in the state and excitement to experience a little bit of Hollywood here in the Ocean State.

I have full confidence in the ability of the RI Film & TV Office to continue bringing high quality productions to RI and that recognizing the benefits they bring from driving more opportunities to local businesses with more or bigger productions will continue to drive even more wins for the local economy.

I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to seeing House Bill 8180 pass into legislation.

Best Regards,

John Parris

Monday May 6, 2024

To House Chairman Marvin Abney,

I am writing in support of House Bill 8180 which clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state certified RI motion picture production costs.

I was able to see the positive impacts of production by directly working on set for Good Burger 2. Good Burger 2 was produced here in Rhode Island by Paramount and Nickelodeon. From my understanding Paramount had never shot in Rhode Island and they left our beautiful state excited for the opportunity to return! I was also fortunate to witness the amount of joy filmmakers brought to fans being in our backyard and additionally our local small business community. This joy was a direct result from many hard working people from throughout our Rhode Island community, you our collective state leadership and the hard work of Steve Feinberg and his passionate team. One Rhode Island based tent company wrote me a kind letter and told me the work from this film kept their team in business. Their business like many others are still struggling from fewer events and the rippling economic effects that remain from Covid.

Job creation, community excitement, tourism, economic development are all positive effects I saw first hand and I would like to see Rhode Island continue to grow to compete with our neighboring states in the future. The only way to do so is by continuing to make these positive steps through the use of your voices and by taking action. The more we increase communication and transparency the greater the opportunity for a viable film studio to eventually become a sustainable model. As we increase these opportunities we will continue to increase local work opportunities in many different sectors and increase future educational opportunities for this rapidly growing opportunity. As credits continue to grow it will allow us to continue to build our infrastructure to provide more Rhode Island based full time work while also continuing to increase our state's tourism and small business support right here at home.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for your consideration. If you have any questions or I wish for me to elaborate on any points that I witnessed first hand please don't hesitate to reach out directly. Thank you all for your service and for continuing to be a positive change for our small but mighty state.

Ed Brady