



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

Good evening, Chair Abney, First Vice Chair Slater, Second Vice Chair Marszalkowski, and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Josh Levin, and I am the Vice President of Northeast State Government Affairs for the Motion Picture Association (MPA). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the House Finance Committee.

The MPA serves as the global voice and advocate of the motion picture, television, and streaming industries. Its members are Netflix Studios, Paramount Pictures Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal City Studios, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, and Warner Bros. Discovery. I am testifying in support House Bill 8180.

Film production is an immediate injection of economic development dollars into a local economy that puts unionized cast and crew to work. Members of the legislature must look no further than the backdrop of the beautiful Rhode Island State House over the past month. Any given production employs makeup artists, set decorators, electricians, caterers, truckers, and hundreds more people with skilled trades backgrounds from throughout Rhode Island and the region to invest millions of local spending into the economy. According to MPA research report released this March, on average, a production spends \$670,000 per day per location shoot. That translates to an average total spend of \$21.8 million over the course of ensuing days and weeks of production infusing \$11.7 million in local wages and the ensuing tax revenue for Rhode Island and municipal governments.

We can see the benefits of film production, but we cannot always see the extensive planning



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and budget estimating associated with how productions come together to choose Rhode Island or another location. The filming opportunity created by Rhode Island, like its competition, starts with a production incentive. The Rhode Island Motion Picture Production Tax Credit that incentivizes production while infusing \$5.44 in economic activity for \$1 dollar in public funds given to a film production, according to a 2022 Industrial Economics study.

When productions calculate several budgetary scenarios as well as consider the creative direction, they count on a production tax credit to be applied and administered as the statute is written to ensure that the productions can deliver on budget projects while capturing on location splendor of the Ocean State to deliver to global audiences. A stable and robust tax incentive, proposed through the HB.8180, and the Senate bill package, delivers on this objective and secures future film production projects just as several projects intend to return to filming in Rhode Island.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 8180. Thank you for your time.