Dear Chairman Hinds, Chairman Cusack and Members of the Revenue Committee:

We write today not as representatives of our respective institutions but as a collective voice for media education in the Commonwealth. We come from a wide range of colleges and universities, large and small, private and public. We represent the interests not only of our fellow faculty and staff, but of the more than 4,000 students who are enrolled in our courses and programs. **We seek your support of bills H.2419 and S.1728, legislation that will continue the state’s successful film tax credit program.**

One of the most valuable effects of the film tax credit (FTC) is the impact it has on the state’s media education landscape. The FTC has fundamentally changed the prospects of our students, both during and after their studies. They can now get internships and state-of-the-art training at production companies, visual effects studios and editing houses that would not exist were it not for the tax credit. When they graduate, they now have a broad range of career options that would be unthinkable without the FTC. They can get good paying jobs on crews or build their own independent media businesses.

The careers that are both direct and indirect products of the FTC stand in stark contrast to the old industrial model: they are fueled by creativity and ideas rather than unskilled labor and finite resources. That’s good for the thousands of students in dozens of media programs all over the state, but it’s also good for the economy and the environment.

Whether the project in question is an independently produced documentary or a blockbuster made by a major studio, media productions are complex enterprises that often require years to prepare and execute. This is why it’s so important to have a tax credit program that is stable and predictable. We cannot let this slip away and lose the tremendous career path that it has created here in the Commonwealth. Passage of H.2419 and S.1728 would send a powerful and clear message to film and media makers everywhere that Massachusetts is dedicated to building a creative economy that won’t be here today and gone tomorrow, but one that will support future generations.
This commitment to the future is also vital to our education sector. Like media productions, academic programs take a great deal of time, effort and resources to develop. Extending the FTC provides an incentive for high schools, colleges and universities to invest in media education.

We hope we can count on you to support H.2419 and S.1728. If you need any further information, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of us. Thank you for supporting both education and the media industry in Massachusetts.

Very Cordially Yours,

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