Independent Film Producers Urge Elimination of Pending Expiration Date of Film & Television Production Incentive Program

April XX, 2021

The Honorable Karen Spilka 
President of the State Senate 
State House 
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Ron Mariano 
Speaker of the House of Representatives 
State House 
Boston, MA 02133

Massachusetts State Senate 
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Dear President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and Members of the State Legislature:

We write collectively as local independent filmmakers and producers who create films, series, and digital content. Our work originates in Massachusetts, is produced here, and is seen across the world. This work contributes to the vibrant creative economy in our state.

Local newspapers and photographers herald the production of the big-budget film and television projects that are brought here by the state’s Film and Television Production Incentive Program. But these major studio productions are not the only films and stories that are made possible because of the state’s production incentive. Massachusetts is home to a vibrant independent filmmaking community and is also widely recognized as a hub for documentary filmmaking in the United States.

The lower budget threshold of the state’s tax credit ($50,000 minimum) has been vital in supporting the creation of our work, which employs many local artists, technicians and craftspeople. We also rely on local businesses created by this ecosystem to develop and produce our work. Together, we are part of the talent pipeline that’s essential to building and maintaining a permanent base for the filmmaking community.

In addition to creating our own films, television, and streaming content, many of us are also business owners; provide skilled labor that draws productions to Massachusetts; and teach in local schools and universities to mentor the next generation who are now able to remain in Massachusetts and take advantage of the employment opportunities created by the Film and Television Incentive program. We are also your neighbors and fellow taxpayers and citizens.
If the production incentive expires, these investments in the future of our industry, and the employment opportunities they make possible will leave Massachusetts permanently. Many of us would lose the stable employment and job opportunities that allow us to live and work in Massachusetts, and be forced to move elsewhere. Others among us would be forced to take our projects to competing states that continue to support film production, because the financing and production budgets for our work depends on the stability of keeping the production incentive in place.

The rise in streaming content is creating enormous new opportunities for film and series productions both large and small. Massachusetts has the opportunity to capture this industry growth that will bring even more investment and good-paying jobs to Massachusetts, and support our local independent filmmaking and arts communities, for many years to come.

We urge you to eliminate the pending expiration date of the film and television production incentive program, and preserve the vibrant filmmaking and arts ecosystem that has been nurtured over the course of the production incentive’s existence.

Sincerely,