



Monday, February 13, 2023

Statement in Support of House Bill 2182

House Taxation Committee

The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas is pleased to voice its support for the passage of House Bill 2182, which would provide filmmaking incentives in our state.

As one of just a few states that do not offer film incentives to production companies, Kansas is missing an opportunity. Film incentives would enable Kansas to compete for economic growth in the film industry across the state. In Lawrence, for example, there are many small businesses working in the film industry that routinely travel outside of the state to make their living in the film production arena. Respected cinematographers like Jeremy Osbern, Tony Ontiveros, and Mark Havener, and postproduction companies like Sam Billen's Post Haus are great examples of small businesses that would benefit greatly from this incentive. Moreover, the state wins when these businesses do business in Kansas.

This incentive would also bring incremental revenue to the very industries that were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - our hotels, restaurants, and retailers. During the pandemic, government made massive capital investments in programs like the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and others in order to keep this workforce on the payroll and help these businesses survive. Every incremental film or TV series that is filmed in Kansas because of this incentive will result in significant incremental revenue for Kansas hotels, restaurants, and retailers. This is without significant capital outlay, making this a very important benefit of the filmmaking incentive.

The Chamber of Lawrence is also pleased to be joined by fellow members of the METL Coalition (Manhattan, Emporia, and Topeka Chambers of Commerce) in support of this legislation. The 3,880 Kansas jobs currently supported by the film industry could grow significantly, as this measure would incentivize national and local production, grow local resources and production capacity, and create an environment to keep and grow talent, expand programs, and grow the technological knowledge base. Please vote to approve House Bill 2182.

Hugh Carter

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