

February 3, 2025

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
New York State Assembly Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Leaders & Members of the Legislature:

We respectfully write to express our enthusiastic support for the Governor's proposed extension and enhancements to the New York State Film and TV Production Tax Credit program.

As film commissioners of various regions across New York, our jobs are to ensure the continued success of the film and TV industry in our jurisdictions from both an economic and cultural perspective. The film tax credit is a cornerstone in fostering the growth of our state's film and television production industry and is critical to ensuring that New York remains a top destination for production companies.

When productions come to town, their crews generate invaluable economic activity by staying in our hotels, employing our local production talent, dining at our local restaurants, and patronizing our local mom-and-pop businesses. These benefits are particularly pronounced outside of New York City, where just one production can generate hundreds of jobs and produce tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in economic activity.

Importantly, the updated production incentive will continue to support high-skilled, high-wage union jobs across the Empire State. The average pay in the industry is \$90,000 per year, 44 percent of which do not require a college degree. This establishes the film industry as one of the few remaining sectors where those who did not attend college can work good-paying jobs with union benefits. Thanks to an [allocated percentage](#) of the tax credit set aside to recruit, train, and hire diverse New Yorkers, this updated program will help build a more inclusive and representative film and television industry in New York – and ensure all New Yorkers have access to the high-skill, high-wage jobs production work supports. These are precisely the kinds of jobs and programs our state should promote and keep here.

We remain particularly grateful to the Legislature for increasing the program's annual cap in FY2024 from \$420 million to \$700 million. This expansion has allowed our state to continue competing with film-friendly states like New Jersey and Georgia, where New York-based productions have [relocated](#) recently and taken their economic benefits with them. The

Governor's proposed enhancements and extension this year will create more security for productions looking to site in New York.

We urge you to support the Governor's film tax credit proposal in the FY2026 budget. By doing so, you will solidify New York's position as a leader in the global entertainment industry, ensuring economic growth, job creation, and cultural enrichment for years to come.

Sincerely,



Pat Swinney Kaufman
Commissioner, NYC Mayor's
Office of Media and
Entertainment



Nora Brown
Film Commissioner,
Rochester/Finger Lakes Film
Office



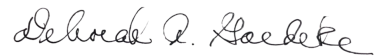
Tim Clark
Commissioner, Buffalo
Niagara Film Office



Amanda Dana
Director of Tourism and Film,
Orange County Government



Erin Dennin
Marketing Manager, Greene
County Tourism



Deborah Goedeke
Albany County Film
Commissioner



Eric Granger
Film Commissioner, Greater
Adirondack Film Commission



Lisa Berger
Director, Ulster County
Tourism and Office for Film



Louis Newman
Manager, Visit Binghamton
Film Office



Donna Pennell
Schenectady County Film
Commissioner



Denée Zeigler
Economic Development
Coordinator, City of Troy



Eric Vinal
VP of Film, TV, and
Entertainment, Film Syracuse



Natasha Caputo
Director, Westchester County
Tourism & Film