



SENATE BILL 596

Income Tax – Film Production Activity Credit

March 11, 2009

POSITION: Support

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the *Restaurant Association of Maryland*, we strongly support SB 596, which would create financial incentives to encourage film production companies to choose Maryland as a filming location.

We firmly believe in the economic benefits associated with film production. Not only do production companies utilize local restaurants and caterers, but they also support the local economy by utilizing local hotel rooms, building supply and hardware stores, local merchants, drycleaners and other relevant business sectors. Local service trades also benefit from the direct economic impact. These economic gains are in addition to the local employment opportunities that such production companies provide.

Other states have long realized and taken advantage of the opportunities to provide the same type of financial incentives, often at the expense of states that have yet to embrace such strategic moves. As an integral part of Maryland's proud tourism industry, we believe that the financial incentives offered through this initiative will be repaid many times over in benefits to Maryland businesses and workers.

We respectfully request that you give SB 596 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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