



New York's Entertainment Workers recommend the Extension and Enhancement of the New York State Film and TV Tax Incentive Program

New York State has shown extraordinary foresight by enacting the Film and Television Tax Incentive Program. Over the past several years, workers in New York's entertainment industry have experienced unprecedented job growth. During a time of severe economic crisis, the industry has essentially created thousands of solid, middle-class, union jobs with benefits. This job growth would not have been possible without the Film and TV Tax Incentive Program.

However, this thriving program is now in jeopardy. Its success has attracted record numbers of feature films and television series to New York, essentially depleting the funding of the current program.

The uncertainty of the credit funding is already being felt. As employers in our industry plan and budget for major motion pictures, television pilots and series in 2009 and 2010, they have begun to look for fully funded tax credit program in other states.

To maintain the job growth, New York must extend the program and lift the cap so that employers have sufficient certainty to continue to bring productions to New York.

Based on data collected by the Governor's Film Office, since the end of April 2008, more than 100 film and television productions have come to NY and have spent over \$1.8 billion in the New York economy. Ernst & Young has also completed a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the tax credit and reports that 19,000 jobs were created in 2007 alone.

Members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), Directors Guild of America, Teamsters and Screen Actors Guild have all experienced significant job growth over the past 4 years. Businesses supporting the entertainment industry (including lumber yards, hotels, restaurants, dry cleaners and other ancillary businesses) have also benefited from the increased production. Due to the success of the program, thousands of workers have had the ability to support their families and contribute to the economy of New York State.

Both the Legislature and the Governor have fulfilled a vision to grow and diversify the New York economy and create good paying jobs with benefits. We urge the extension of the program and lifting of the cap so that New York can continue to grow this important industry.

Submitted on behalf of The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Directors Guild of America, Screen Actors Guild and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and the New York State AFL-CIO