



NINA K. NOBLE

February 3, 2022

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I am an independent producer and Baltimore city resident. I've recently completed the HBO limited series, "We Own This City" which was filmed in Baltimore and Howard counties as well as Baltimore city. On this production, I was reminded of the many advantages to shooting in this region, and the need to sustain the film industry in Maryland on a long term basis. I know you'll be hearing from many of my colleagues about the benefits to small business and infrastructure when a year round film industry exists, all certainly true. I would like to speak to the benefits of HB 432 to the citizens of our state.

"We Own This City" was a return for me, and my longtime producing partners David Simon and George Pelecanos to Baltimore after 14 years. Though we call this place home, we have not had the occasion to work here since "The Wire". It was reassuring to see that the same strong support we experienced at that time from the Maryland and Baltimore film offices, as well as the BPD and other city and county agencies still existed. What had changed was the fact that we were now competing for the excellent local crews we helped train during our time here with productions shooting in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and other states where these employees found jobs when they could no longer rely on year round work at home. We are losing talented graduates of Johns Hopkins, Morgan State, and Towson Universities as well as CCBC who leave the state after graduation, unable to find work. An available, experienced work force is the first thing producers and studios ask about when deciding where to locate a production, probably more important than locations as visual effects technology becomes more sophisticated.


On our shows, we strive to be a place where opportunity and inclusion can flourish. To this end, we host interns and other entry level workers who have no experience and no connections in the industry. In addition to learning industry related trades, they are taught job search, networking, and work etiquette. It is often the first time they have been treated as a valued team member, and many go on to join trade unions or seek jobs on other productions.

During the production, we also hosted several panel discussions in schools and other community groups. We speak about the many advantages of the film industry:

*Diverse workplace- gender, race, sociology-economic, geographic diversity

*A place for all kinds of minds- college educated and not

*Well paying jobs with good benefits



We are proud of this legacy and it is our hope that by supporting HB432, Maryland can once again become a place of opportunity for those who chose film & TV production as a career, and for the many businesses that thrive through the presence of this industry. Please give HB432 a favorable report, and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Nina K. Noble

Executive Producer

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WE OWN THIS CITY

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