



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.6987 (Amedore) / A.9415 (Gunther)

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to increasing the number of counties in which services can be performed to qualify for the empire state film production credit

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,600 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, supports S.6987/A.9415 which would extend the current additional 10% Film Production Tax Credit to the counties that are both outside of the New York City studio zone and currently ineligible for this 10% incentive.

The state budget for 2013-14 budget created an additional 10% Film Production Tax Credit for production companies who film or productions filmed in forty upstate counties. Albany and Schenectady were subsequently added via the state budget for 2014-15 budget. The Capital Region Chamber, in partnership with Film Upstate, a collaborative of film commissions in the Capital Region, has discussed ways in which we can make the climate for filmmaking more attractive in our region. We believe that it is imperative to extend the current tax credit to those counties included under this legislation (Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, and Washington).

The current NYS Film Production Tax Credit Program has boosted filming in counties where the credit is available and has had a positive impact on the upstate film industry. The Chamber believes that by expanding this credit to other counties, the upstate economy, as well as the upstate film industry will benefit. This legislation will promote all that Upstate New York has to offer; it will increase filming throughout upstate and it will attract more visitors to our countless tourism destinations. By enacting this legislation, New York State can send a strong message to filmmakers: "Film Upstate"!

For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation.

At the Center of New York's Tech Valley
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