

PA Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Film Tax Credits

April 20, 2022

Gregory Edwards

Good morning, Chairman Hutchinson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Gregory Edwards. I am a local film technician. My official title is dolly grip. I am responsible for working along with the camera operator for all camera movement. This includes operating a camera dolly, crane or moving vehicle to add movement to a scene.

My early training in electrical wiring came from attending Bidwell Training Center on the Northside of Pittsburgh. I began my career at a local nightclub and performance venue, which then led to working at Pittsburgh Public Theater. My TV and film career started when film production in Pittsburgh was starting to build. Then productions started to migrate to Canada for cheaper production costs. Since production in Pittsburgh was drying up, I followed an opportunity to go to Hollywood to work to provide for my family. After a few years, when the tax credit was implemented, I was able to return to Pittsburgh to continue my career here. I've been able to work at home in Pittsburgh which has given me the opportunity to be present to raise my family instead of having to travel to find work elsewhere which many in this business have to do even now. Unfortunately, when the tax credit runs the work opportunities decline and people with this film experience must find work elsewhere.

The film industry in Pittsburgh has become an integral part of this economy. With an increase in tax credit this industry has the potential to become an even greater contributor to the health of our economy and to support the families which now depend on it.

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience with you and how my story represents the experiences of many others in this community.