



To: Senator Osten & Representative Walker, Co-chairs – Appropriations Committee
Senator Fonfara & Representative Rojas, Co-chairs – Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Senator Hartley & Representative Simmons, Co-chairs – Commerce Committee
Distinguished Members of the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue & Bonding; and Commerce Committees

From: Danielle Bibbo, ITV

Date: February 28, 2020

Re: Department of Economic and Community Development – 2019 Annual Report

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2019 Annual Report issued by the Department of Economic and Community Development. We respectfully urge you to consider the following when evaluating the Film, Television and Digital Media Production & Infrastructure Tax Credits. After reviewing the report, we felt it was important to speak up. The financials only tell one story so ITV would like to add context on the intangible benefits the Tax Credit provides that positively impact the CT economy.

When ITV decided to relocate our East Coast production hub to Stamford, Connecticut we did so for one reason: The Tax Credit Program that was offered by the state. As one of the largest producers of unscripted programs in the US, we have moved dozens of television shows to Connecticut along with the people who work on these productions, with plans to bring over 300 high-paid jobs to the state in the coming years. If not for the tax credits, we undoubtedly would still be operating all of our East Coast business out of New York City.

In addition to bringing jobs, we are also spending millions of dollars to build a state-of-the art 30,000+ square foot production facility in the new Stamford Media Village located at 860 Canal Street. We are using Connecticut architects and builders to support local businesses in the area. We believe this newly designed, high-tech home will be a beacon for ITV, attracting more young people who work in the industry to abandon city living and relocate to Connecticut.

We are also committed to helping the state retain its most valuable export, CT college grads. ITV is working with local schools (i.e. UConn) and programs (i.e. Governor Innovation Fellowship) to create relevant classes, provide internships and jobs for students and graduates, helping to keep young high-caliber talent in-state.

Finally, as a respected leader in the industry, ITV has been successfully encouraging and helping other production companies to relocate to Connecticut. Since our move 2+ years ago, a number of other production companies have followed in our footsteps and moved their businesses to the state. Our hope, and ultimate goal, is to grow a flourishing and thriving production community here in Connecticut – and the only way to do that is with a solid and healthy tax credit program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Danielle Bibbo
EVP Business Development & Strategy, ITV