

Excerpts: E-mail from Sharon Pinkenson, Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, to Dawn Keezer, Director of the Pittsburgh Film Office.

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I just spent an hour on a call with Senator Vince Hughes, the new Minority Chair of the PA Appropriations Committee and a great supporter of the GPFO and our industry. I'd like to share with you what I learned on that call.

1. The Governor will present his budget on March 8th, not Feb 8th. This is good news and gives us an additional month to get to the Governor directly.
2. Budget hearings will begin on March 16th and run through April and May.
3. Gov Corbett has targeted Memorial Day for the deadline for passing his budget.
 - a. Good news for PA, if he can do it, because it will save PA the cost of keeping the General Assembly in Harrisburg.
 - b. Bad news for us because it shortens our window to get our message heard.
4. Gov Corbett's priorities
 - a. Public safety
 - b. Welfare of children & elderly
 - c. Education
 - d. Corrections
5. Democrats' priorities
 - a. Jobs
 - b. Economic Development

So what does this mean to all of us? It means in a nutshell that we have to get our act together quickly and smartly.

I will continue my individual efforts to get our message out that

1. The film tax credits make money for PA and do not actually "cost" the Commonwealth anything, let alone \$75M.
2. The program is one of only two PA tax credit programs that are successful, the other being the EITC.
3. The film tax credit program has stimulated the creation of new businesses, capital investment, and new high paying jobs that attract young people.
4. The loss of the film tax credit program mean the end of the film industry in PA just when it's become a huge success and force thousands of Pennsylvanian on the unemployment roles.
5. Now is not the time to worry about tweaking the program. The program is threatened to be cut entirely.

Any new economic impact study must be done immediately. There is no time to wait for a long process by government to get the update completed.