March 21, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

To boost film production outside of New York City, the 2013-14 State Budget included language to create an additional 10% film tax credit for “Upstate” counties. However, Catskill and Hudson Valley counties, including Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess were not considered “Upstate” for the purposes of the credit and have been unable to tap into this economic development opportunity. Our friends, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and Senator George A. Amedore have introduced legislation (A.9415 and S.6987) to include these Hudson Valley counties in the 10% Empire State Film Production Credit program.

We, the undersigned, support the tax credit -- the hamlets in Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess counties are in upstate New York. These communities boast an endless number of unspoiled locations to choose from to get the perfect shot, and they would all benefit from the increased tourism revenue. From the pre to post-production credits this program offers, it will make our area an even better choice.

Regards,
Ramsay Adams, Executive Director - Catskill Mountainkeeper
Mary Stuart Masterson, Actor, Producer – Ulster County
Debra Winger, Actor - Sullivan County
Aidan Quinn, Actor – Ulster County
Jayni Chase, Producer/Director
Chevy Chase, Actor – Ulster County Native
Michelle Williams, Actor - Ulster County
Arliss Howard, Actor - Sullivan County
Mark Ruffalo, Actor - Sullivan County
Natalie Merchant, Singer/Songwriter – Ulster County
Kendy Gable, Singer/Songwriter – Sullivan County
Chris Spencer, TV and Film Producer - Ulster County
Chase Palmer, Film and TV Script Writer - Sullivan County
Aileen Abercrombie, Film Costume Designer, Sullivan County
John Adams, Actor, Producer - Sullivan County
Noah Hutton, Film Producer -Sullivan County
Toby Poser, Voice and Film Actor - Sullivan County
Ananda Thorson-Adams, Actor - Sullivan County
Jon Bowermaster, Producer/Director - Ulster County
RJ Baker, Beavercall Film Studios Owner – Sullivan County
Chris MacKarell, ARRI Rental Product and Technology Group
Leslie Mattingly, Senior Producer, NBC News Peacock Productions
Ramya Pratt -Actress/ Film Producer - Sullivan County
Tannis Kowalchuk, Artistic Director, NACL – Sullivan County
Mike Oates, Hudson Valley economic development/Investor
Steven Erdman, Songwriter/Producer – Sullivan County
Pedro “Pete” and Crystal Tweed – Monticello Gymnastics Owner/Film Makers
Pernille Loof, Photographer – Sullivan County
Josh Grier, Entertainment Attorney, Sloss Eckhouse LawCo. – Sullivan County

Cc: Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.
Assemblymember Aileen M. Gunther
Ulster County Executive Michael P. Hein