



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

**The Advocate for the Catskills**

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, Beaverkill 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