

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND

July 25, 2023

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

**Supporting Workers Impacted by the Ongoing Entertainment Industry Strikes**

On May 2, 2023, the Writer’s Guild of America (WGA) voted to authorize a strike over an ongoing labor dispute with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). On July 14, the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) also voted to authorize a strike in opposition to the agreement and conditions presented by the AMPTP – bringing Hollywood to a standstill. Both writers and actors are seeking contracts that provide living wages, fair working conditions, equitable pay from residuals in streaming media, and protections that address rising concerns over the use of artificial intelligence. By fostering equitable treatment of entertainment industry workers, we enhance both the working and creative conditions that profoundly impact the lives of Angelenos through the arts.

On June 6, 2023, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion to support the WGA in their strike – marking another step in Los Angeles County’s commitment to supporting working artists and creatives. The AMPTP must heed this letter

**MOTION**

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of support by meeting the negotiating position of the WGA, not just to ensure sustainable livelihoods for writers, but also to prevent a further significant strain on Los Angeles County's economy.

The entertainment industry is a critical component of Los Angeles County's economy and is interconnected with a myriad of other employees and contractors. From set designers to make-up artists and prop house sales representatives, these workers are dependent on the entertainment industry. Unfortunately, many of them are starting to feel the collateral pain from the simultaneous strikes – not to mention, have not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not the first time that a strike in the entertainment industry has put pressure on Los Angeles County's workers. From November 2007 to February 2008, WGA members went on strike to demand parity between writer salaries and studio profits when negotiations were unsuccessful with the AMPTP. The 100-day strike put a significant economic strain on the entertainment industry. While estimates for its economic impact vary, the Milken Institute estimated the economic losses of the strike to be \$2.1 billion — more than \$20 million a day — and 38,000 jobs.

According to the 2023 Otis Report on the Creative Economy, the entertainment sector of Los Angeles economy—which includes both the digital media subsector and the motion Picture and Video subsector—accounts for 1 million jobs, \$114B in labor income, \$206B in direct gross value added, and \$38B in tax revenue (direct, indirect, and induced impact combined). While the motion picture and video subsector saw significant job losses of 13.3% due to COVID-19 closures, by 2021, the subsector had rebounded and had added more jobs by 2021 than before the pandemic (+18.6%) in Los Angeles County.

According to Variety magazine, 2021 set a record for the number of original scripted series on television.

Given the significant economic strain of the 2007-2008 strike, Los Angeles County must understand and minimize the economic effects of the 2023 WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes. It is critical that Los Angeles County take necessary steps to protect workers impacted by the ongoing strikes while also supporting and uplifting union members in their pursuit of just agreements. Without proper support, these workers, many of whom likely come from marginalized communities of color, may face significant economic insecurity resulting from the simultaneous strikes in the entertainment industry.

The passage of this motion in time will demonstrate Los Angeles County's continued effort in fostering a culture of empowerment and remind Angelenos that the fight for labor rights continues.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Division, to send a five-signature letter to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) supporting the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and urging the AMPTP to return to the negotiating table and end this strike by meeting a reasonable agreement with the SAG-AFTRA.
2. Direct the Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), through the Los Angeles County Film Office, to work with the Department of Arts and Culture, to demonstrate and quantify, where possible, the economic impacts of the Writer's

Guild of America and SAG – AFTRA strikes on employees and contractors that serve the entertainment industry in Los Angeles County and report back in writing in 30 days on the following:

- a. The impact on direct, indirect, and induced employment and earnings.
- b. Information indicating how many businesses impacted by the strike are sole proprietors or independent contractors, and whether they are eligible for unemployment.

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