



New Mexico Senate President Pro Tem Mimi Stewart and Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth Issue Statement in Support of IATSE

September 29, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Chris Nordstrum
(415) 601-1992

Chris.Nordstrum@nmlegis.gov

SANTA FE – Today, New Mexico Senate President Pro Tempore Mimi Stewart and Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth issued the following statement in support of IATSE members mobilizing in preparation of a nationwide strike authorization vote to demonstrate their commitment to achieving long-overdue changes in the entertainment industry.

“New Mexico is home to a vibrant Film and Television industry and one of the largest crew bases between the coasts. The Legislature has worked hard to incentivize bringing work to New Mexico and we are proud of the incredible productions made here. Our state’s investment helped to revive this industry and create thousands of jobs for New Mexicans. We are happy to see that production is booming in this state.

The members of IATSE 480 are the backbone of this industry. Their hard work, skill and dedication helps to create the magic of film and television to the screen. IATSE members have risked their health and safety for the past year, working through the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the motion picture and television industry remained intact. Production has now returned to pre-pandemic levels, due in no small part to the essential role these workers play in the creative process.

The key issues in the negotiation with the the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), as we understand them, are about worker dignity and basic human necessities. The union is asking for living wages, sustainable benefits, and reasonable rest periods between shifts and during the workday.

The strong labor-management partnership in the entertainment industry has been essential to its success. It has also been key to the ability of all the unions and employers to respond when faced with difficult issues that impact the industry as evidenced by the unique COVID safety protocols that were jointly agreed to and put in place in 2020.

Behind every great film and television show is a hardworking crew of union members. We support IATSE members in New Mexico and across the country as they begin a strike authorization vote on October 1, 2021.”

###