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September 19, 2013

Ken Howard
National President
Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
5757 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear Mr. Howard:

I write to you today to congratulate the SAG-AFTRA on the eve of its first-ever National Convention.

As an individual who has grown up playing music, I share in your organization's concern for the many performers, writers, actors and musicians who work tirelessly to create the entertainment we all enjoy.

The recent merger of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists was an important step forward for creative professionals across the country, and I commend your association on the great strides it has made to protect these individuals from intellectual theft and copyright infringement. In this internet age that presents both opportunities and challenges, SAG-AFTRA plays a vital role in representing over 165,000 talented individuals who work hard to make a decent living. They deserve full recognition for their artistic contributions that enrich our nation as well as the world community.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, I pledge to continue the efforts of SAG-AFTRA to ensure that artists and creators are allowed to do their work in an environment that properly values it. In the meantime, congratulations again on your inaugural convention – I look forward to working with you in the future!

With warm regards,

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS