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Mary Rasenberger

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

December 14, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul:

First, congratulations on your victory in the 2022 New York State gubernatorial elections. As a New Yorker, I am thrilled that you will remain at the helm of our government to continue the great work you started in your previous term.

I am writing today to request your approval of New York State bill S8369B/A9368, the Freelance Isn't Free Act (FIFA). The Authors Guild has been among the groups leading the effort to enact FIFA in New York State and elsewhere in the country. The bill, which was passed by the state legislature in June with overwhelming support and is currently pending your signature, builds on a successful New York City law that went into effect in 2017 to protect freelance workers like the members of the Authors Guild from wage theft. It requires that employers provide written contracts for all freelance workers and allows freelancers to collect double compensation if employers fail to pay them in a timely manner. It also sets forth other regulatory changes aimed at making it easier for freelancers to collect payments they're owed. It protects not only the scores of freelancers based in New York, but also freelancers hired by New York-based companies.

By signing the FIFA bill into law, you have the opportunity to make New York the first state in the nation to protect the resourceful and industrious freelance workforce, which by some estimates comprises 39 percent of U.S. workers. This historic milestone will not go unnoticed as freelance workers across the country continue to mobilize for their rights to work with dignity and respect.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to celebrating FIFA's enactment.

Sincerely,



Mary Rasenberger
CEO, The Authors Guild