

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 10, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Attorney General of California
1300 I Street, Suite 1740
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom and Attorney General Bonta:

I write today with concern over numerous media reports that the California Attorney General's office is preparing to file a lawsuit to block the merger of Paramount Skydance and Warner Bros. Discovery.

For at least a decade, film and television production has fled the state once synonymous with the motion picture, television, and digital industries – repeatedly citing California's anticompetitive business environment, burdensome regulatory rules, and excessive taxes, fees and costs. The result has been the loss of tens of thousands of California jobs and the wholesale relocation of studios, facilities, and related businesses that built our entertainment economy. Nothing in your reported opposition to date seems to address this crisis head-on or offer a real solution.

The public record is that the regulatory authorities of more than two dozen nations around the world – including Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa – have formed a global consensus that this merger is pro-competition. In addition to gaining the regulatory approval of the U.S. Department of Justice, the backers of the merger have publicly pledged significant new investment in production, including a commitment to annually release 30 or more films per year and prioritize domestic production for both film and television.

Is the State so intent on weaponizing antitrust law that it would risk the likely result of more production, more capital, and more high-value jobs being driven out of California?

I urge you to reconsider and decline to take an action that I believe would validate the spreading concern among successful California-based companies that the State government has become so hostile to businesses, innovators, and entrepreneurs that they should relocate out of state entirely.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress