

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2026

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Office of the Attorney General
California Department of Justice
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

Dear Attorney General Bonta:

We write to thank you for your commitment to conduct a “full and robust review” of the proposed acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery by Paramount Skydance.¹ We remain concerned that the proposed merger could harm California workers and consumers. We therefore respectfully urge you to closely analyze the potential effects of this merger and, if you determine that this merger would have anticompetitive effects, use your best judgement to pursue the appropriate course of action.

California’s film industry has already endured enormous disruption as production has increasingly left the state. On-location production in the greater Los Angeles area declined 13.2% from July through September 2025 compared to the same period the previous year.² This reduction builds on the loss of more than 42,000 jobs in Los Angeles County’s motion picture industry from 2022-2024. It has had a devastating effect on the workers and their families who form the backbone of Hollywood’s creative economy.³ Simultaneously, we’ve continued to watch as these jobs, and many companies, have left the United States altogether for foreign venues abroad.

Paramount is projecting to cut \$6 billion in expenses over three years should this merger proceed. Analysts predict that many of these savings will be accomplished through significant job loss.⁴

Importantly, the proposed merger does not occur in a vacuum. Decades of consolidation in this industry have already resulted in reduced output, higher prices, fewer choices, and less innovation, while merged studios face few consequences for breaking their pre-merger promises.

¹ Press Release, California Office of the Attorney General, Attorney General Bonta Issues Statement on Proposed Warner Bros. Mergers: California is Taking a Close Look (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-issues-statement-proposed-warner-bros-mergers-california>; Coral Murphy Marcos, *‘Not a Done Deal’: California Vows ‘Vigorous’ Review of Paramount-Warner Bros Takeover*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 27, 2026) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/27/california-paramount-warner-bros>.

² <https://deadline.com/2025/10/los-angeles-film-tv-production-q3-2025-1236584450/>

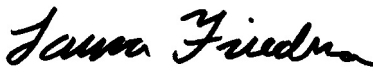
³ <https://nofilmschool.com/entertainment-industry-crisis>

⁴ <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/business/story/2025-12-10/netflix-paramount-warner-bros-deal-layoffs-what-to-know>

It is also impossible to overlook the unprecedented politicization of antitrust enforcement by the Trump Administration. Given that we cannot have confidence that the Trump Administration review of the merger will be conducted according to the law, and with the best interests of American workers and consumers in mind, it is even more vital that you conduct a thorough, independent review.

California has a long history of fighting for the rights of workers and consumers. We applaud you for carrying that mantle forward and urge you to closely scrutinize this merger. We support your investigative efforts and thank you for your leadership at this critical moment.

Sincerely,



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



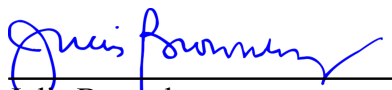
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



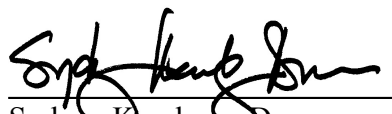
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
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Sydney Kamlager Dove
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Mike Thompson
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



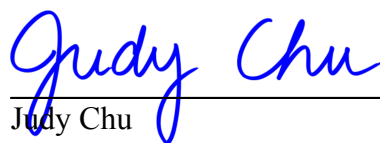
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
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Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



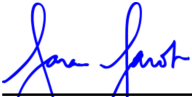
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



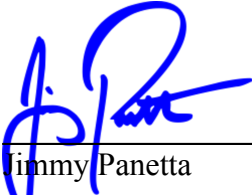
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



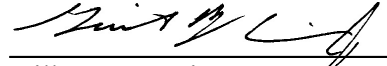
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



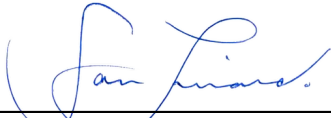
Mark DeSaulnier
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Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



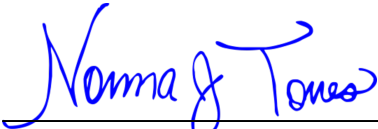
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



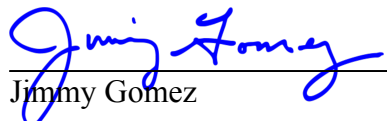
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



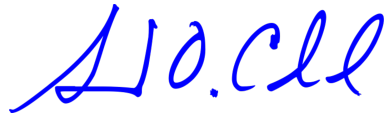
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



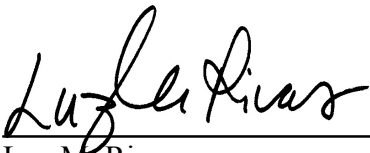
Jimmy Gomez
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Lateefah Simon
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Salud Carbajal
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Scott H. Peters
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George Whitesides
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