

Jackson County Senator & Senate Pres- ident Robert Stivers Recognized by Motion Picture Association



Senate President Robert Stivers (left) is presented with the Motion Picture Association's 2026 Industry Champion Award by MPA Chair and CEO Charles H. Rivkin (right), Sept. 24, 2026. Photo Credit: Motion Picture Association.

Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, received the Motion Picture Association's (MPA) 2026 Industry Champion Award on Wednesday for his work to expand film and television production in Kentucky.

MPA Chair and CEO Charles Rivkin presented the award at the MPA Awards Ceremony at the association's global headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The MPA Awards recognize leaders whose contributions strengthen the creative community and support policies that encourage growth and innovation.

“Every year, the MPA Awards celebrate what unites creators, policymakers and fans, from Washington to Hollywood and beyond: our shared belief in the power of great stories, well told,” Rivkin said in an MPA news release. “Throughout American history, creativity and innovation have driven our economic strength, our cultural imprint and the health of our democracy. Tonight, we honor that same spirit, and the leaders who embody it: legislators who champion our industry, a law enforcement partner who helps us protect our content and a filmmaker who keeps audiences watching, wondering and eager to experience the next sunrise of great storytelling.”

Stivers's award honors policymakers whose efforts have helped promote and protect the creative community while fostering economic growth through film and television production.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the Motion Picture Association, but the credit belongs to the people in Kentucky's film industry who helped guide this effort," Stivers said. "Our investments are opening doors for Kentucky talent, strengthening small businesses and driving economic growth across the commonwealth. Kentucky has laid a strong foundation and people are taking notice. If we can demonstrate a strong return on investment, we can grow the industry even further—and turn iconic productions into a draw for tourism."

The MPA cited Stivers's leadership in advancing legislation designed to attract larger-scale film and television productions to Kentucky.

Under Stivers's guidance, the Kentucky General Assembly has prioritized policies aimed at expanding economic opportunities through the creative industries, recognizing the significant impact film and television production can have on local economies through job creation, tourism and business development.

Efforts have included establishing the Kentucky Film Office and modernizing the Kentucky Entertainment Incentive Program.

“When people have opportunities for upward mobility through economic and educational opportunity, they’re generally less likely to engage in things they shouldn’t,” Stivers said in a recent interview on Kentucky’s film production future. “It’s not a 100 percent guarantee, but creating jobs and educational opportunities helps build pride, self-worth and stability. People want to know they can provide for their families, own a home, have health insurance, retire someday and feel secure about their future. Those opportunities make people’s lives better and improve the communities around them. At the end of the day, it comes back to the economy. People want opportunity, and when they have it, their lives are generally better.”

In the same interview with Bryan Abrams for *The Credits*, an MPA publication, Stivers discussed the importance of bringing the arts to rural communities.

“There’s tremendous appreciation for the arts in rural Kentucky,” he said. “The challenge is access. Several years ago, during discussions about pandemic recovery funding, I encouraged the Louisville Orchestra to travel throughout the state. If public dollars were going to support the orchestra, I wanted people across Kentucky to have the opportunity to experience it. The response has been incredible. Communities absolutely embrace these performances.

"I'll never forget an event in Beattyville. A woman came up to me afterward and said, 'I can't afford to drive my children to Louisville and buy tickets to see the orchestra. But because of this performance, they've had a wonderful experience tonight.' She told me she hoped it would instill in them the same appreciation for the arts that she had. That's why you do these things. When people appreciate the arts but haven't had access to them, helping create that opportunity is incredibly rewarding."

The MPA serves as the leading voice and advocate of the motion picture, home video and television industries. It works in every corner of the globe to advance the creative industry, protect its members' content across all screens, defend the creative and artistic freedoms of storytellers and support innovative distribution models that bring an expansion of viewing choices to audiences around the world. Its member studios are Netflix, Paramount Pictures, Prime Video & Amazon MGM Studios, Sony Pictures, Universal Studios, The Walt Disney Studios and Warner Bros. Discovery.

Learn more at motionpictures.org/awards.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION AT JACKSON COUNTY REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK, ANNVILLE, KENTUCKY

The Jackson County/McKee Industrial Development Authority (JCMIDA) in Annville, Kentucky, is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified and experienced engineering firms to provide professional engineering, design, and associated services for the expansion and improvement of wastewater treatment plant in the Jackson County Regional Industrial Park, Annville, Jackson County, Kentucky.

JCMIDA is applying for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the engineering and construction of this project. This selection process will result in a contract only if the project is funded.

Copies of the RFQ will be available October 1, 2026, in the following ways:

- At the offices of the Jackson County/McKee Industrial Development Authority (JCMIDA), Annville, KY
- On the JCMIDA website at www.jcmida.com
- Via email at jcmida@prtcnet.org.
- On the Cumberland Valley Area Development District website, www.cvadd.org.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked on the following criteria. The maximum points possible is 100 points.

Capability to complete the project as described in RFQ	25 points
Relevant project experience, with references	25 points
Qualifications and hourly rates of Project Team	25 points
Project Approach and Schedule	25 points

Submissions should be clearly labeled:

“REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS – JACKSON COUNTY REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION ENGINEERING SERVICES” and delivered to: Jackson County/McKee Industrial Development Authority, Attn: Mitchell Ball, 169 Carpenter Drive, Annville, KY 40402. US mail, private courier, or hand delivered packets will be accepted. Regardless of the manner of delivery, the packet must be in the Authority’s office by 4 p.m. on the designated day. Electronic submissions will NOT be accepted.

Questions concerning this Request for Qualifications shall be submitted in writing to Mitchell Ball, Executive Director, Jackson County/McKee Industrial Development Authority, at jcmida@prtcn.net no later than Thursday, October 8, at 4 p.m.. Responses to the questions will be posted by Friday, October 16, no later than 4 p.m. These questions are for clarification only. No information about the project will be made available other than what is in the RFQ. Deadline to receive SOQ is Friday, October 30, 2026, no later than 4 p.m..

JCMIDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals deemed not in the best interests of the organization and its goals. JCMIDA will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the procurement of professional engineering services.

**Public surveys on the
Daniel Boone National Forest
Visitors are encouraged to participate**



Beginning October 1, the public may encounter contract employees conducting public surveys on the Daniel Boone National Forest in developed and dispersed recreation sites and along Forest Service roads. Surveys will be conducted through September 30, 2027.

The National Visitor Use Monitoring survey is a Forest Service program designed to estimate how many people actually recreate on national forests and grasslands, what activities they engage in while there and how satisfied people were with their visit. These surveys are conducted on a national forest every five years.

Contract employees will be out in all types of weather conditions, wearing bright orange vests and be near a sign that reads "Traffic Survey Ahead."

Surveys are voluntary and all responses are confidential; names are not included and interviews last about ten minutes.

Questions asked may include where you recreated on the forest; how many people traveled with you; how long you were on the forest; what other recreation sites you visited while on the forest and how satisfied you are with the facilities and services provided. About a third of survey participants will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip to measure the economic impact to local communities.

Information about the National Visitor Use Monitoring program can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/nvum.