

**LaHood, Rice, Roby, and Murphy,
Headline 2019
“Los Angeles Innovation Policy
Tour”**

Washington, D.C. – On April 17 and April 18, The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange hosted a “Innovation Policy Tour” of Los Angeles. The tour was designed to examine how Washington, D.C. and the policies set by the United States Congress can impact the entertainment production industry and its distribution. Issues of taxation, intellectual property and piracy were discussed while seeing first-hand some of the exciting technological developments in Hollywood.

In attendance were Ways & Means Committee members Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC), Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) and Appropriations Committee and Judiciary Committee member Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL). Also in attendance were Jennifer Watson, who is Rep. Rice’s Chief of Staff, and Mike Albares, who is Rep. Roby’s Chief of Staff.

The two day tour began with a visit to the iconic Paramount Pictures studio lot, which is owned by Viacom. A meeting on tax credits and other incentives on the international, federal, and local levels driving production decisions was led by Lee Rosenthal and Rod Smith. The group received a tour of various active sets and visited a production facility where they met with Foley artists and an Academy Award winning sound editor .

At Sony Pictures Studios, located on the former MGM studio lot in Culver City, the group visited with more Foley artists in a large audio engineering studio and the set of the long-running game show “Wheel of Fortune”.

At 21st Century Fox studios in Century City, the group took a tour of the Fox Sports 1 (FS1) production studios and sound stages including a meeting with Fox Sports



The 21st Century Fox visit included a stop at the studios of Fox Sports and FS1



Reps. Darin LaHood, Stephanie Murphy, Tom Rice, and Martha Roby on the set of ‘Friends’

Media Group President, Eric Shanks, on the future of sports and media took place.

Day two opened with a visit to Universal Studios, which is wholly owned by Comcast through its subsidiary NBCUniversal. A briefing on content piracy and other illegal content distribution online was held on a soundstage with a panel discussion which featured Meilan Stark, Braxton Perkins, and Bo Afshar. The group was given a backstage tour of Universal Studios Hollywood’s “Wizards World of Harry Potter.”

The group then traveled to Walt Disney Studios, in Burbank, where they discussed taxation with John Stowell. A tour of their historic facilities and lot included peek at Walt Disney’s original office, a presentation on advancements in animation and technology and a visit with Disney animator Jorge Ruiz Cano.

To conclude the “Main Street Policy Tour,” the group visited Warner Bros. studio, which is owned by Time Warner. The participants also visited the set of the talk show “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” and the set of sitcom “The Big Bang Theory.”

Jim Conzelman, President and CEO of The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center, led the tour and said, “Seeing firsthand these facilities and studio lots illustrates to these Members of Congress the challenges facing American workers and companies, and how federal policy impacts them. It also provides a new perspective and understanding of the economic growth produced in Los Angeles and the entertainment industry.”

Conzelman added that this was the fourth “Policy Tour” in Los Angeles and that past tours have occurred in Seattle, Chicago, and Silicon Valley. he country.

For more information on the organization, please visit its website at www.franklincenter.us.



Paramount



NBCUniversal



Disney



The Wheel of Fortune



Fox Sports 1



The Ellen DeGeneres Show



Warner Bros.



Paramount



Sony



Harry Potter World