

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.  
4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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ARMED SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1004**

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STRATEGIC FORCES

August 4, 2016

Cheryl Boone Isaacs  
President  
Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences  
8949 Wilshire Boulevard  
Beverly Hills, California 90211

Dear Ms. Boone Isaacs:

Congratulations on your fourth re-election as President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In February of this year, I wrote to you on the issue of inclusion and diversity in the film industry and I invited you to meet to discuss pathways forward. This issue is of utmost importance to me as an African-American member of Congress, a senior Member on the House Judiciary Committee, and as a member representing the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia – where many studios are now based and artists live and perform. In fact, the Atlanta metropolitan region has become one of the most burgeoning film and production locales outside of the west coast. In July 2016 alone, 33 films and TV shows were filmed throughout the state.

To date, I have not received a formal response, update, or a meeting request to discuss these critical issues. I welcome your response to that February 2016 letter. There may be ways that the Congress can assist you and I look forward for the opportunity to discuss this further.

Two years ago, when the Oscars notoriously did not reflect the diverse faces of the American people and the plethora of compelling films before the Academy that year, the decision to not include these diverse, noteworthy films left Americans questioning the legitimacy of the Academy as an institution. Now that you are serving your last consecutive term, it is imperative the Academy take action and respond to the lack of diversity in the industry, both in front of the camera and behind the screens.

I applaud your efforts to increase diversity to date. As late as June 2016, there was a record 683 new members invited to join the Academy, with 46% women and 41% people of color. The list included notables such as Idris Elba, Tina Fey, Emma Watson, and John Boyega. While this is better than previous years, I believe more diversity can be achieved within the Academy and the film industry writ large.

I again congratulate you on your fourth, consecutive re-election as President of the Academy and look forward to continuing the dialogue to increase diversity and inclusion in the industry. Please feel free to reach out to my office directly at 202-225-1605 or contact my Chief of Staff at [arthur.sidney2@mail.house.gov](mailto:arthur.sidney2@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hank Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress