



**Municipality of Anchorage
2011 State Legislative Program
(State Fiscal Year 2012)**

Dan Sullivan, Mayor

Municipality of Anchorage Legislative Priorities

who may have no way to supplement current income or cut costs. Current law provides sufficient fiscal protection without legislative repeal of the program: Cash assistance provided under the Alaska Senior Benefits Payment Program is explicitly subject to appropriation under AS 47.45.302(c). The program should not be made subject to sunset June 30, 2011. The sunset should be extended or repealed.

Energy

- ✓ **Natural Gas:** Support legislation that promotes natural gas development in the Cook Inlet, and modernizes aging Railbelt electrical transmission facilities.
- ✓ **Oil Production:** The MOA strongly supports all efforts to maximize oil production to maintain Trans Alaska Pipeline Service (TAPS) viability; and encourages a competitive analysis be performed to address the existing regulatory and fiscal framework to identify whether Alaska is globally positioned to attract maximum development.

Private Sector Development



- ✓ **Film Credits:** Because of the proven economic benefits that film production is providing Alaskan communities, MOA supports extension of the Alaska Film Production Incentive Program and full funding of the transferable film production tax credits for Alaska corporations.
- ✓ **Little Davis Bacon:** Consistent with the Alaska Municipal League priority, the MOA supports raising the limit from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on Little Davis Bacon projects.

Public Safety

- ✓ **Drug Legislation:** The MOA has identified the need for strong legislation that criminalizes the use of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) mimicking drugs or synthetic marijuana products, to include the incense commonly sold as "Spike", "Spice" or "K2."
- ✓ **Involuntary Commitment:** Amend AS 47.27.190 on Involuntary Commitment, Section (a) by adding language to make the statute more consistent with AS 47.37.180 on Emergency Commitment.
- ✓ **Prosecution Surcharge:** Under the philosophy that cost-causers should be cost-payers, add a surcharge for prosecution similar to that for law enforcement to allow law departments to capture at least a portion of the funds expended in the interest of public safety. Under AS 12.55.039, a surcharge is assessed to defendants in the amount of \$75, \$50, or \$10, depending on the type of offense.
- ✓ **Indigent Defense Fee:** Make the indigent defense fee assessed to defendants post-conviction or plea a mandatory, not discretionary, fee to allow local jurisdictions to capture at least a portion of the funds expended



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Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol, 426
Juneau, AK 99801

February 7, 2011

Honorable Representative Tuck,

Thank you for taking the initiative to introduce House Bill 67 to the current legislative session. Extending the film production tax credits for an additional ten years will allow the State to continue developing this industry in a comprehensive fashion. Establishing a workforce, infrastructure, and proving our talents is part of the long-term strategy.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks has actively been working with film industry partners since 2007 to broaden the skills of our students and provide opportunities for on-the-job training. We have supplied talent, crew, logistical support, and even equipment for Discovery channel, Sundance Institute, Universal Pictures, CNN, the History Channel, BBC, and dozens of smaller film production companies from all over the world. Our students have worked with industry from television commercials to feature films.

UAF Film students have been funded by the National Science Foundation for work with the International Polar Year, recognized by the Legislature for their broadcasts from Iraq as embedded journalists, and have been cast in roles as actors from Barrow to Anchorage. We have been proud partners and associates in two films screened at Sundance, and others that have been seen in International Film Festivals the world over. Enrollment in UAF Film Courses has grown 60% in the past four years, and continues to grow.

The Alaska State Film Tax Incentives are the first step in attracting established film companies, producers, directors, and talent to Alaska. In so doing, they are providing local Alaskans opportunities to not only work on the set, but also provide services in direct support of productions. From hotels and restaurants to transportation and equipment, ripples are cast wide when a film comes to town.

It takes several years to develop a film production from concept to screen. We have really only seen two years to prove what could be done in our state with the incentive program in place. Once the timeline is extended, more filmmakers will commit to developing their projects here and we will see a surge in productivity and revenue as a result.

The film industry is a green, renewable, and lucrative industry to attract to our state. The benefits of tax incentive programs have been proven; New Mexico, North Carolina, New Orleans, and Michigan have seen substantial revenue growth due to the film industry presence.

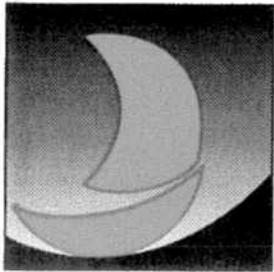
Fortunately for us, Alaska is ALASKA! Filmmakers want to share its beauty with the world. Let's help them do that, keep the revenue in state, give Alaskans the jobs, and share our stories with the world.

Thank you for your service to this Great State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maya Salganek".

Maya Salganek
Assistant Professor, Theatre & Director, Film Studies
University of Alaska Fairbanks



prince william sound
**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

Chenega Bay
Cordova
Tatitlek
Valdez
Whittier

February 4, 2011

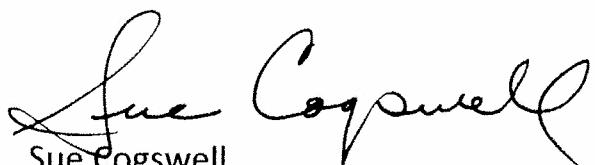
Representative Bob Herron
State Capitol Building, Room 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Herron:

On behalf of Prince William Sound Economic Development District, I would like to offer our support for House Bill 67, the Alaska Film Tax Incentive legislation. Since these incentives were created in 2008, millions of film production dollars have been spent in Alaska, creating many jobs and business opportunities across our beautiful state.

We support the extension of Alaska Film Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million for the following five years. These incentives will establish a positive statement to the film and television industry that Alaska is a welcoming environment for production, marketing and promotion.

Sincerely,


Sue Cogswell
Executive Director

ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Representative Bob Herron
Chair, House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
State Capitol, 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Herron,

I am writing to show my support for House Bill 67.

Without this important incentive program it would have been much more difficult to raise funding for our feature film, 'The Doppelganger Principle.' With the exception of our star, Ed Asner, all cast and crew will be pulled from the talent we have here in Alaska. Further, since our investors are local, as well, all revenues from our film go right back into our local economy.

The tax incentive program has kick-started a long undeveloped industry here. Not only are we seeing big-budget feature films coming in with many jobs for Alaskans, but some of our own young film makers are now encouraged to try to ply their craft here, rather than make the usual pilgrimage Outside. I was recently invited to take part in a new web-series, 'Alaska Film Makers,' a continuing web-accessed program reporting on what is happening in our local film community. This is all quite heartening.

As the first-ever elected Alaska representative of the Screen Actors Guild, I have recently been able to help add several new members to our ranks. I fully expect that our membership in Alaska will double before the end of this year. Perhaps even more rewarding, as I now sit on the SAGIndie National Committee, we have been able to show local film makers how to develop their work as a SAG signatory project..

Good things are happening here as a direct result of this program. Extending it should be a no-brainer.

Let's not blow it!

Ron Holmstrom, Director
Doppelganger Productions, LLC
645 G St. Ste 100-616
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-748-5729

Aurah Landau

From: leif@gci.net on behalf of leif [leif@denali.net]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Sen. Johnny Ellis; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: Alaska Film Tax Incentive

Hello,

I wanted to take time out of my day to write my very first letter to my State legislature.

I am a life-long Alaskan, invested in my community - my great-grandparents immigrated in 1917, landing in Douglas, then relocating to Spenard in 1954; my daughter currently goes to O'Malley elementary, and my wife works for the Anchorage School District.

I have been active in the arts community for over 25 years, and have seen, and felt, the ups and downs of the economy's impact on the arts.

Recently, I have been given the opportunity to take part in two major motion pictures that were filmed here in Anchorage: Everybody Loves Whales, and Ghost Visions (aka Beyond)

While my contribution to the film was small, the economic and social impact to the community was tremendous - and very positive.

I am encouraging you to extend your support for Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67, which will extend the Alaska Film Tax Incentive program.

Oregon is a wonderful example of how tax incentives can bring the film and TV industry into a community, and help drive the economy by offsetting failing-industry income dollars.

Our state needs to be known for more than just oil, seafood, and gold: we need an image and income that will last through the ups-and-downs of non-renewable resources.

I believe that the Film Tax Incentive can play a part in Alaska's future, and I ask that you, too, play a part.

Leif Sawyer
6251 East 112th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99516

<http://imdb.me/LeifSawyer>

Aurah Landau

From: Corrie Young [corrieyoung@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 4:00 PM
To: Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: Support SB 23 (HB 67) - Alaska Film Industry Incentives

Dear Rep. Tuck,

I support Alaska's growing film industry and acknowledge the positive economic impact it has in our state. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support SB 23 and HB 67.

Sincerely,

4th generation Alaskan,
Corrie Young
Anchorage, Alaska