

**GENERAL
TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer
 520 E. 34th Ave., Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
 Phone (907) 565-8122 • Fax (907) 565-8199

March 8, 2011

Senator Burt Stedman
 Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
 State Capitol Room 516
 Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 23 Alaska Film Incentive Program Extension

Dear Senator Stedman:

On behalf of our approximately 6000 Teamster members, I would like to thank you for your proactive approach to incentivizing the Alaska Film Industry. Your legislation, which was passed overwhelmingly by the legislature in 2008, has been a success from the onset.

In March 2008, prior to the passage and implementation of SB 230, Paramount Studios-DreamWorks produced some background shots for a Star Trek movie. The shoot lasted approximately one week and employed five of our members, who worked approximately 190 man-hours.

Since the passage of the tax incentive, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of jobs in the film industry. One of the larger productions, "Everybody Loves Whales", employed at peak approximately forty Teamster members who worked approximately 20,000 man-hours. Many of these workers earned nearly \$35,000 each for their work over a three to four month period. We continue to have Teamsters employed on other shoots as well.

I would also like to note that the film incentive program has not just increased jobs for union members, but non-union workers as well. We have found that some of the smaller productions have not been signatory to a labor agreement, but they also

Senator Burt Stedman

March 8, 2011

Page 2

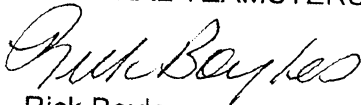
generate dollars into our economy- Alaskans working in Alaska on Alaskan jobs.

We would note, however, that training workers in this field of industry would assist in assuring that more of the technical jobs are done by Alaskans. For example, in addition to van drivers, cast drivers, steak beds, and generator trucks, there are also set dressers, grips, set electricians, production crews, construction crews, and special effects teams, to name a few. I am currently working with our Training Trust director and industry representatives to focus our program specifically toward some of the film industry needs, and I am sure others are as well. Working together to assure a well-rounded training program will go far in assuring that Alaskan workers with new skills will be working in this new and exciting industry in our state.

In summary, we will assist where necessary in support SB 23. This legislation is an excellent example of an incentive program that has increased the number of Alaskan jobs and improved our overall economy in a very brief period of time. Your approval of the continuation can only further improve those numbers and the ongoing economic growth of our state.

Sincerely,

GENERAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959



Rick Boyles

Secretary-Treasurer

c: Senator Lyman Hoffman, via facsimile to 907-465-4523
Senator Danny Olson, via facsimile to 907-465-4821
Senator Dennis Egan, via facsimile to 907-465-2108
Senator Joe Thomas, via facsimile to 907-465-5241
Senator Johnny Ellis, via facsimile to 907-465-2529
Senator Lesil McGuire, via facsimile to 907-465-6592
Barbara Huff Tuckness, President, Teamsters Local 959

via facsimile to 907-465-3922

Sen Stedman SB23.030811