



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

February 14, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol, Rm. 119
Juneau, AK 99801

SUPPORT OF SB 23: Alaska Film Incentive Program Extension

Dear Senator Ellis,

At its recent monthly meeting, the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) voted its support in favor of SB 23 to extend the Alaska Film Incentive Program. The Board feels that this program has offered many economic benefits to the residents of Alaska, and it has the potential to do more.

With estimates ranging from \$2-3 delivered to local economies for every dollar spent by the film industry, that represents a good return on investment for Alaskans, especially in some of the more rural and economically challenged areas of the state.

We hope to see the level of film activity increase in Alaska, and SWAMC is heartened that a portion of the tax credit program is geared toward spurring more economic development in our rural areas. We hope the bill sponsors and those within the Alaska Film Office will continue to encourage more filming and production in rural Alaska, where our scenery is unmatched.

SWAMC's Board of Directors feel that an extension of the program may develop the certainty and help spur the necessary infrastructure for the film industry to continue to prosper in the state. We must remember, however, that this program is about more than films, and several types of productions qualify for the incentive that could bring more dollars into all areas of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Varner", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Varner
Executive Director

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595
Email: edward.itta@north-slope.org

Edward S. Itta, Mayor

March 30, 2011



Senator Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Ellis:

I support SB 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Incentive Program. The Film Production Incentive Program was instituted only a couple of years ago and seems to be quite a success story, both in terms of job creation and diversification of our economy.

It was pretty exciting for me to see the set for "Everybody Loves Whales" because it looked like downtown Barrow. I found I knew some of the actors and extras and got a chance to appreciate the extra business generated for many companies in Anchorage area. We noticed quite a bit of activity on the North Slope too. There were a couple of dozen people involved in several days of filming and they stayed at our hotels, had their meals at our restaurants and rented vehicles for ground transportation. In short, the existing program created lots of enthusiasm and opportunities for a number of people and businesses.

I believe there are lots of good Alaska stories out there, apparent interest from the industry in telling those stories and also in creating those films here. Filming in Alaska is expensive and to be truly successful in the longer term more infrastructure will need to be developed. I support the program and wish you the best of luck in extending the program for another ten years.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Itta
Mayor



Brian Rogers, Chancellor
(907) 474-7112
(907) 474-6725 fax
uaf.chancellor@alaska.edu
www.uaf.edu

Bob Shefchik, Executive Officer
(907) 474-7489
(907) 474-7475 fax
rrshefchik@alaska.edu

Office of the Chancellor

320 Signers' Hall, P.O. Box 757500, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

March 16, 2011

Representative Bob Herron
Representative Chris Tuck
Senator Johnny Ellis
Members of the Interior Delegation
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Delivered via electronically

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Preparing Alaskans for Alaska jobs; that is a big part of what we do at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and why we support expanding the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. UAF has just added a film major to our list of bachelor degrees and we are committed to preparing our students for a growing film industry in Alaska. Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67 will help diversify Alaska's economy and UAF is excited to be a part of training the people who help make that happen.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks has actively been working with film industry partners long before the tax-incentive program was established 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. Since the establishment of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program, the number of these opportunities has dramatically risen. One of the impetuses for the new film major is to help prepare homegrown talent for an industry that is expanding here.

These incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from Canada and 45 other states. They understand the economic benefits that this industry can bring to their businesses and communities.

The National Science Foundation has funded UAF Film students 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.

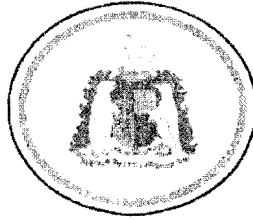
We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67 will provide a clear signal that offers Alaska businesses the opportunity to better plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, UAF fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,



Brian Rogers



The Hotel
Captain Cook

939 WEST 5TH AVENUE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE (907) 276-6000

SALES	FAX (907) 343-2207
CATERING	FAX (907) 343-2211
RESERVATIONS	FAX (907) 343-2298
ACCOUNTING OFFICE	FAX (907) 343-2262

February 9, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of The Hotel Captain Cook, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. Since its inception in 2008 the Film Production Tax incentive program has created jobs for Alaskan and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

The fact is financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada. 45 other states currently have a program of some type, as they understand the economic benefits that this industry can bring to our businesses and communities.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the economic diversification and economic development success of the film tax incentives while also providing a clear signal that offers Alaska businesses the opportunity to better plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, The Hotel Captain Cook fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter Hickel Jr.".

Walter J. Hickel Jr.
Chairman and C.E.O.

March 11, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol Rm. 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182



Re: SB 23 – Extension of film production tax credits

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of General Communication, Inc. (GCI), I add the company's support for SB 23 which extends the film production incentive program and film tax credits in Alaska.

GCI was involved in the recent production of EVERYBODY LOVES WHALES. As a major sponsor of this film we observed first-hand the impact this small studio production had on the economies of Anchorage and Barrow.

Some economic impacts can be easily measured – such as those in the recently released report by the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) – but it's more difficult to quantify the effect on a business such as ours. From a corporate perspective, our association with the film engendered good will with Alaskans, who recognize the need to build economic opportunities within the State.

It's our goal to repeat the positive experience we had working with the producers on EVERYBODY LOVES WHALES. In fact, we will be partnering with the producers of THE PEAK, a major motion picture with a much higher budget, and look forward to working with other producers throughout the years as they bring their film business to Alaska.

The cache of working with a feature film in Alaska provides GCI an excellent marketing tool, and just as a high tide lifts all ships, we expect that any Alaskan business that provides goods and services would likewise see a financial boost.

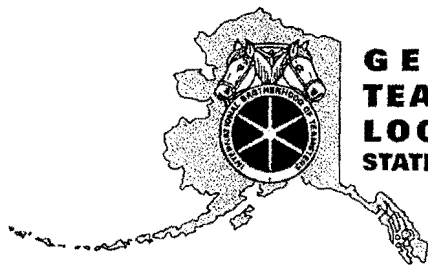
GCI wholeheartedly supports SB 23 and the continuation of the film production incentive program and tax credits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Landes".

Paul Landes
Senior Vice President of Consumer Services
General Communications, Inc.

cc: All House members



**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

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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



March 16, 2011

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Ellis -

I am writing in support of SB 23, the film incentive bill, and want to add my voice to the many who favor extending the program for 10 years as well as increasing the amount available to tax credits by an additional \$100 million.

My company, Kaladi Brothers Coffee Co., had a front row seat to the making of *Everybody Loves Whales*. Whether it was all-Alaskan coffee, lattes, cappuccinos or chai tea, we had the privilege of serving our products to the cast and crew for nearly four months. Our coffee cups and our baristas were on the set every day, and our home roasted coffee kept the production rolling. We donated our time and our product 24 hours a day / 7 days a week not because we wanted the recognition, but because we believed in doing everything we could to encourage productions like *Whales* to choose Alaska as a film location. We knew that good word of mouth back in Hollywood about Alaska's hospitality [and good coffee] would go along way toward convincing other productions that Alaska could host their needs. By encouraging more feature films, we believed it would be good for the long-term economic development of the state.

As was recently reported in a study done for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, because of *Everybody Loves Whales*, the state as a whole saw \$16.5 million more in output between August and November 2010 than otherwise would have been the case. That's just the economic impact of this one movie! I can imagine a time when Alaska will host three or four or five movies a year.

Of course, as you so well understand, no feature film or television show would film here if not for the tax credit incentives. Alaska must be competitive with other states and do whatever it can to attract more feature films, television shows and documentaries to the state. And so I applaud your vision and your effort to extend the tax credits with hope that it will be supported and passed by the legislature this session.

Sincerely,

Dale Tran
Chief Operating Officer
Kaladi Brothers Coffee



We try harder.®

Alaska Rent A Car, Inc.

Avis System Licensee
P.O. Box 190028
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0028

Tel: (907) 243-4300
Fax: (907) 249-8247
E-mail: avis@avisalaska.com

February 11, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capital, 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Film Production Tax Credit. We applaud your efforts for not only this current effort but also for the groundbreaking work you accomplished to get the original legislation in place.

Alaska Rent A Car, Inc (Avis) and our 110 statewide employees benefit from the film production companies that bring their film/commercial shoots to Alaska. We are just a small example of the various types of businesses that benefit from the film industry.

One point not to be overlooked is the additional revenues that come into the state and various municipalities from similar organizations as Avis. The revenue generated by the 10% State Vehicle Rental Tax is collected by all car rental companies and passed along to the State of Alaska. Various municipal vehicle rental taxes/hotel bed tax/general sales taxes are also collected by Avis and others and used to support local governments and their citizens. We can all grasp the idea that productions coming to the state spend money in the state, and businesses enjoy this influx of new business....but we must also remind others that taxes collected are an economic boon to various governmental bodies.

Alaska has always strived to diversify its base economy. The long-term commitment to the film industry is one such tool the state can use. A long-term commitment will drive further needed investment by the private sector, create employment, create new or strengthen existing businesses, and lead to further interest in Alaska (business and tourism); all which means great things for this state.

Again, we applaud your efforts to bring a new industry to Alaska. The employee owners of Alaska Rent A Car, Inc. are fully behind the efforts of the Alaska State Legislature to pass SB 23.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Zimmerman", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Gary Zimmerman
General Manager



February 9, 2011

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801

REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT

TEL 907.265.2670
FAX 907.265.2450

Re: Senate Bill 23 – Alaska Film Production Incentive Program Extension

Dear Senator Ellis:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) supports Senate Bill 23, which extends the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. During 2010, ARRC worked with the Alaska Film Office by offering ARRC property on very short notice because the initial filming site for the film "Everybody Loves Whales" fell through. Unless a new site was found, the filming would have been moved to Canada.

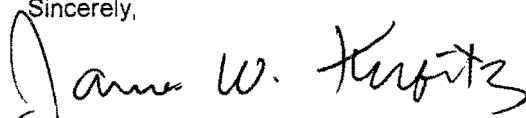
The film company not only used ARRC property for the primary "Barrow" scene, which involved extensive development and construction, it also used our newly renovated Historic Freight Shed for several film sets, feeding the crew, make-up and wardrobe. ARRC's property provided a perfect venue for this film. Numerous Alaskans were put to work in the construction activity in addition to the actors. Local workers were involved in building sets, providing equipment rentals, transportation and meals. Local businesses benefited from the increased level of dollars spent in the community. It was a group effort and everyone worked hard to welcome the film industry. I believe this effort helped to put Alaska on the map as a state that has the ability to support the film industry.

During the same period, the filming of "Ghost Visions" used ARRC property for a portion of a feature film. This film also used the property of an ARRC tenant, where several segments of the movie were filmed.

Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

For all of these reasons, ARRC fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working to develop a new industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,


James W. Kubitz
Vice President, Real Estate and Facilities

To: Alaska State House,

Regarding SB-23

From : Russell Knight,
Owner of Knight's Taxidermy and Star of the new History Channel Program
" Mounted in Alaska"

Support for SB-23

Dear Representatives,

I am writing you today in support of SB-23. This legislation is crucial to the film and television industry's decision to make a series or a movie in Alaska. I can personally attest that this is true through my own personal experience as the new star of the hit new show "Mounted in Alaska".

When negotiations began to bring up a new television series to Alaska over a year ago, these incentives were a major factor in considering Alaska as the location for a new History Channel series. It is a very expensive endeavor and this tax break has given momentum to shows like mine and movies as well.

New shows like mine start off with a very small budget and this tax incentive definitely helps in the decision making process. To lose this tax advantage now will stop all the progress that has been made so far with the image that "Alaska" is open for business to the film industry.

This bill will help bring in new dollars into Alaska and will employ people in this film industry locally. Our show has hired 4 local people to assist in production.

I urge all to pass this SB-23 and let's keep the ball rolling with all the positive work that's been done so far, I would like a second season to my show and I'm afraid if this bill does not pass will have a negative effect on my show and this new multi-million dollar industry.

Thank you for listening

Russell Knight

Knight's Taxidermy Inc.

7329 Arctic Blvd

Anchorage, Alaska 99518

907 344-5501



NICHOLAS I. BAJWA
PETER B. BRAUTIGAM
COLE M. LINDEMANN
ROBERT L. MANLEY
JANE E. SAUER
CHARLES F. SCHUETZE
OF COUNSEL
F. STEVEN MAHONEY

E-Mail: cole@mb.law.pro

March 24, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, Alaska, 99801-1182

Re: Senate Bill 23, Alaska Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

I would like to offer my support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

I have personally seen new and existing clients, as well as third parties, benefit directly and indirectly from the current version of the credit. New and existing businesses in Alaska of small, medium, and large scale and their employees are finding new economic opportunities and developing new trades and skill sets.

The continuing benefits to my clients result in interesting and new work for my firm and me. Without question, the introduction of the credit has had a direct impact on my practice and resulted in unique opportunities for me to use skills I have developed in the past, and learn new areas of the law. The benefits and opportunities that my clients, business throughout Alaska, and I have realized may cease to exist without the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

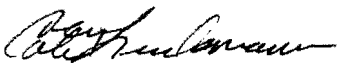
In order to maintain the existing benefits provided by the Alaska Film Production Tax Credit, attract more business opportunities to Alaska, and compete with other states and countries with similar incentives, I offer my support to Senate Bill 23. Extending the credit will show a clear commitment to businesses in other states and

March 24, 2011
Page 2

countries that Alaska is committed to developing an entertainment industry and attracting their business.

Sincerely,

MANLEY & BRAUTIGAM, P.C.

By: 
Cole M. Lindemann

February 13, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

I would like to offer my support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. Since its inception in 2008, the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large.

I have been directly impacted by this program by working on the film, *Everybody Loves Whales*, in the Locations Department assisting with logistics for 26 sites in Anchorage. I believe this program is the just the beginning of blossoming business endeavors and I feel very fortunate to be a part of the growth and future success.

Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

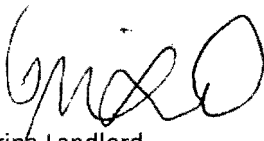
Financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across forty-five U.S. states that currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities.

Internationally, Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to stay competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

I support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, I support the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thank the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trina Landlord', written in a cursive style.

Trina Landlord
Miisaaq Consulting



RSM McGladrey Network
An Independently Owned Member

Offices in Anchorage & Kenai

February 15, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

Mikunda Cottrell would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. Since its inception in 2008 the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products, and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

The fact is, financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada. 45 other states currently have a program of some type as they understand the economic benefits that this industry can bring to our businesses and communities.

Mikunda Cottrell supports the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the economic diversification and economic development success of the film tax incentives while also providing a clear signal that offers Alaska businesses the opportunity to better plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, Mikunda Cottrell fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and would like to thank the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

Jim Hasle, CPA, President and Managing Shareholder
Mikunda, Cottrell & Co.

From: Bryan Davis [<mailto:bryand@northstarak.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Sen. Johnny Ellis
Subject: SB 23 & HB67- Film Production Tax Credit

RE: SB 23 & HB67- Film Production Tax Credit

On behalf of North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co., LLC dba North Star Equipment services, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23 and companion House Bill 67 - the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

Since its inception in 2008, the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business

The fact is, financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across the U.S. forty-five states currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities. Internationally, Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to stay competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co., LLC fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bryan Davis
Director of Business Development
North Star Equipment Services
907 263-0120 office
907 382-6737 cell

www.northstarak.com
a division of North Star Terminal & Stevedore Co. LLC

April 9, 2011

The Honorable Bill Stoltze & Bill Thomas
Co-Chairs, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Rm 515
Juneau, AK 99801

Representatives Stoltze & Thomas:

I encourage you to support Senate Bill 23 to extend Alaska's Film Production Incentives for 10 years. These credits have brought millions of dollars of new spending into the state, and small local businesses like mine are one of the primary beneficiaries. I share the fruits of that new spending with my employees, and those employees spend their wages at other local businesses. Millions of dollars new to our economy trickle down directly to working families in Alaska, and those dollars get further recycled and reinvested in my community. Film production is an infinitely renewable resource, and if these incentives are continued, film productions could still be a significant part of Alaska's economy a hundred years from now.

While I sincerely believe that the program should be permanent, the ten-year horizon is a reasonable compromise and the minimum required for me to have confidence in my capital investments. Without a ten-year horizon, I don't know how long productions will still be filming in Alaska. If I can't make big investments in production equipment unless I have some guarantee that there will be users for that equipment well into the future. And if producers aren't able to rent equipment from Alaska businesses like mine, they bring it up here at high cost from Los Angeles and they usually bring outside crews along to operate it. Competition for film production is steep in the United States. If Alaska isn't competitive on the national stage, production companies will simply film their "Alaska shots" in British Columbia or even Maine. A ten-year extension will also spur the private development of film studio infrastructure like sound stages, and those large corporate investments are good for all of us little guys too.

Please support Senate Bill 23 and please maintain the 10-year horizon. Alaska small businesses and workers deserve a chance to see this industry continue to grow in a stable investment climate.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Huff, Owner
Alaska Universal Productions
Fairbanks, AK

Cc: Representative Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House
Representative Craig Johnson, Chair, House Rules Committee
Representative Alan Austerman, House Majority Leader
Representative Kurt Olson, Co-Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
Senator Johnny Ellis



March 21, 2011

Sent via electronic mail:

Sen. Johnny Ellis

Rep. Bob Herron

Rep. Chris Tuck

RE: Senate Bill 23/House Bill 67 – Extension of Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator and Representatives:

I am a life-long Alaskan and have made a living as a cinematographer in this state since 1977. I am the co-owner of Alaska's high-end film production, production services and postproduction company, SprocketHeads, LLC.

Three years ago I was faced with the prospect of shutting down SprocketHeads and moving my family to L.A. in order to shoot feature films. **Thankfully**, Alaska's film tax incentive program changed that.

I was a cinematographer on *Everybody Loves Whales* and *Ghost Vision* and have been contacted to shoot several upcoming feature films.

Please add my name to the long list of Alaskans who support Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67.

The ten-year extension of this amazing program will give this dynamic industry needed time to take hold, to grow roots, and to flourish. And I, along with my family and my company, will remain in Alaska.

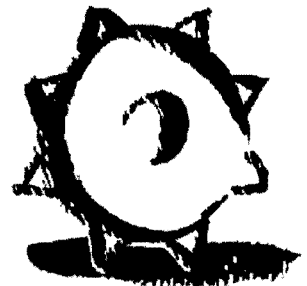
With the passage of SB 23/HB 67 I see a brighter economic future coming into focus.

Respectfully,

Steven L. Rychetnik

Cinematographer, SprocketHeads, LLC

Member, International Cinematographers Guild (Local 600)



Thomas R. Daly

108 Deepwood Court
Kenai, Alaska 99611

02.22.2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of Alaskan small business owners negatively affected by a shrinking energy industry , and dissuaded from the SOA purchasing process, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

With the continued closures of energy companies on the Kenai Peninsula, the most devastating being the Agrium closure and most recently Conoco Phillips LNG plant it is necessary for businesses like mine to look for other industries to support.

Since its inception in 2008, the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

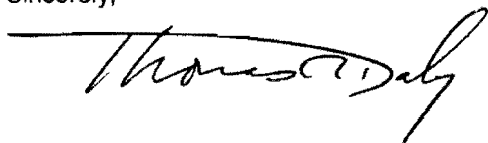
The fact is, in fiscal year 2010 revenue from participation the movie industry offset the loss in revenue from the shrinking energy sector and the loss of revenue from State of Alaska business brought on by the state not allowing Alaskan companies to bid contracts like the SOA WSCA copier contract.

Additionally financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across the U.S. forty-five states currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities. Internationally, Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to stay competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

Speaking on behalf of area small business owners and for all of the reasons listed, we fully support the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,





Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis,

I am writing to show my support for Senate Bill 23.

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



March 16, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: SB 23 relating to the extension of the film production tax credits and transferrable tax credits

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Evergreen Films, I would like to add our support for passage of SB 23. Evergreen Films is an Alaska-based film company with state-of-the art 3D production studios in both Anchorage and Los Angeles. We are focused on producing content that combines *AVATAR*-quality technological innovation with Pixar-quality storytelling. Evergreen is currently in pre-production on the feature film *WALKING WITH DINOSAURS 3-D*, a co-production with BBC Earth. We are shooting exteriors in Alaska this summer, with the film slated for worldwide release in 2013 by Twentieth Century Fox, a global leader in film marketing and distribution.

The extension of the current film incentives will be a primary factor as Evergreen Films and our Alaska business partners decide whether to proceed with further private infrastructure investments in the film industry. This legislation will also continue to attract other producers, and sends a strong message to local businesses and investors that a huge opportunity exists for growth in Alaska, as this new film industry is successfully developed for the long-term.

The economic impact and jobs experienced in Alaska with the small studio production, *EVERYBODY LOVES WHALES* (direct, indirect and induced spending was estimated at \$16.5 million), is just the beginning of what could be a successful new business platform for Alaska. Signs of this are already appearing throughout the state. The Board of Regents recently approved a Bachelor of Arts Degree program in film at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Financial institutions in Alaska are exploring how to become involved in supporting the film industry. Alaska corporations, such as NANA Development Corporation, are developing film services companies. This June, high school students from the Lower Kuskokwim School District will be participating in a work-study program revolving around filmmaking. And most importantly, producers are currently scouting locations in Alaska for a number of future projects.

The positive message of stability created by the long-term extension and funding for the film incentive and tax credits, cannot be overstated in an industry where development, finance packaging, production and distribution of a film project can often take many years. Alaska is finally on film producer's radar and we are successfully competing with other film-friendly states. Passage of this pro-business legislation, which supports and fosters the new, non-resource based film industry, sends the message that our state is in this for the long haul.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Devlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Devlin, CEO

Cc: Senate Finance Committee

1120 East Huffman Road, Suite 24
PMB 595
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907) 522-6272

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

15 February 2011

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of **Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC**, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

As a board member of the Alaska Film Group and the owner of a company which received a lucrative contract with Icebreaker Films/"Everybody Loves Whales", I personally experienced the benefit of this valuable incentive program. In 2010 my wife and I put 3 Alaskan employees on salary to run our small tourism business while she and I dedicated our time to *Whales*.

Because of the Film Incentive Program, my small Alaskan company was able to negotiate a licensing agreement with a LA based entertainment services company so Alaska can provide the accounting and payroll services that Hollywood producers are accustomed. Alaska has some growing pains in order to become a financially sustainable location for feature films, but I have confidence in the private sectors ability to accommodate, if the State commits to this Incentive.

Since its inception in 2008, the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business

The fact is, financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across the U.S. forty-five states currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities. Internationally, Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to stay competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, **Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC** fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

Matt Szundy

Owner

Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC



2010 – 2011

Executive Officers

Chair
Deb Hickok
Fairbanks CVB
Vice Chair
Ken Dole
Waterfall Resort/Promech Air
Government Relations Chair
Patti Mackey
Ketchikan CVB
Marketing Chair
Julie Saupe
Anchorage CVB
Tourism Planning Chair
Kirk Hoessle
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Treasurer
Bill Pedlar
Knighly Tours
Secretary
Paul Goodwin
Holland America Line
Past Chair
Stan Stephens
Stan Stephens Cruises
President & COO
Ron Peck
Alaska Travel Industry Association
Board of Directors
John Binkley
Alaska Cruise Association
Roark Brown
Homer Ocean Charters
Janet Buckingham
Kodiak CVB
Bruce Bustamante
Princess Tours
Ann Campbell
Aurora Consulting
Brett Carlson
Northern Alaska Tour Company
Peter Grunwaldt
Premier Alaska Tours
Scott Habberstad
Alaska Airlines
Paul Landis
CIRI Alaska Tourism
Tim McDonnell
Temsco Helicopters, Inc.
Bonnie Quill
Mat-Su CVB
Fred Reeder
Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska, Sitka
Scott Reisland
Denali Grizzly Bear Resort
Catherine Schultz
Sophie Station
Ethan Tyler
Alaska Tourism Solutions

Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SB 23 – Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senators Ellis, Hoffman, and Stedman,

On behalf of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), we would like to state our support for extending the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program as proposed in HB 67 and SB 23.

ATIA operates with two distinct functions: 1) We advocate on behalf of 1,100 business members and 2) We are charged with executing an effective tourism marketing program. While fulfilling these dual roles, we believe that ATIA has a unique viewpoint to share on this bill.

As an economic development program, ATIA believes the extension of the Film Production Tax Credit creates jobs for Alaskans and diversifies the economy. While films are in production in Alaska, there are measurable benefits to hotels, airlines, restaurants and others in the travel & hospitality industry. The high-profile production "Everybody Loves Whales" demonstrates the immediate impact brought by this fairly new industry to our communities and businesses.

ATIA also believes that the Film Production Tax Credit and film projects that portray images of Alaska do not replace the need to market Alaska as an attractive tourism destination. By definition, this tax credit promotes the new production of film projects within Alaska. It does not require such projects to promote Alaska as a destination, portray Alaska in a positive light, create a direct response mechanism for possible visitors, provide tools to facilitate planning a vacation to Alaska or connect viewers to Alaskan businesses. For these goals, a well-funded Alaska tourism marketing program is required.

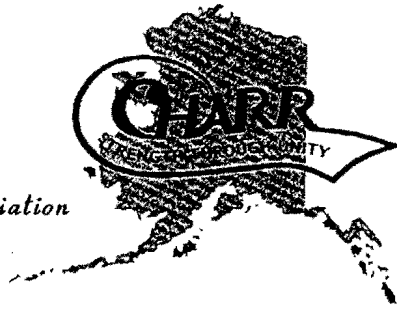
Therefore, we wish to convey our strong support of the extension of the Film Production Tax Credits as an economic development program for an emerging industry.

Regards,

Ron Peck
President
ATIA

Deb Hickok
Chair, Board of Directors
ATIA

*Alaska Cabaret, Hotel,
Restaurant & Retailers Association*



1503 W. 31st Ave., Suite 202 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 274-8133 • Fax: (907) 274-8640
Toll Free In Alaska (800) 478-2427

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

March 28, 2011

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of the Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailer's Association, representing Alaska's hospitality industry and over 1,800 licensed establishments, we would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

Since its inception in 2008, the Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs for Alaskans and economic opportunities for Alaska businesses small and large. Projects resulting from this tax incentive programs offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism and a welcome economic boost to Alaskan businesses. Continuing and extending this program will encourage the multi-billion dollar film and television industry to continue business in our great State.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, Alaska CHARR fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for diversifying and supporting Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,

Dale G. Fox, CAE
President & CEO, Alaska CHARR

Feb. 11th, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of Alaska Crew Training Inc.; we want to thank you for sponsoring this extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program, Senate Bill 23 and offer our support.

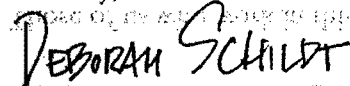
Since its inception in 2008, Alaska's Film Production Tax Incentive program has created jobs and economic opportunities for Alaskans and for Alaskan businesses small and large. Our training program, Alaska Crew Training Inc. exists *because* of these incentives. In addition to building Alaska's labor force, film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska understands the value of this industry and welcomes productions into our state.

Those of us who work in this industry today know first hand that financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across the U.S. forty-five states have incentive programs in place. This demonstrates an understanding by those states of the economic benefits this industry offers. Internationally Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. To stay competitive in this global marketplace Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. We hope that Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry. Thank you for promoting and keeping Alaska in the movie business!

For all of these reasons, Alaska Crew Training, Inc. fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,



Deborah Schildt - Program Administrator
Alaska Crew Training, Inc.

P.O. Box 110163
Anchorage, AK 99511
c 907/223-3740
c 907/230-6870
f 907/783-2625

www.alaskacrewtraining.org
akcrewtraining@gmail.com



February 15, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of the ALASKA FILM GROUP and our statewide membership, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, extending the Alaska Film Tax Credit Incentive Program for ten years.

Since it's inception in 2008, Alaskan jobs in the film industry have increased and Alaska businesses have seen their bottom lines improve. In addition, film and television projects to our state offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism.....all contributing factors to the diversification of Alaska's economy.

Many ALASKA FILM GROUP crewmembers worked on two recent feature films, "Everybody Loves Whales" and "Ghost Vision". They traveled from Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Girdwood, Kenai and Palmer to participate. Vendor members from rental car companies, hotels, shipping companies to film rental houses were contracted to provide services. Seeing this unfold from our efforts leading up to passage of SB230 in 2008 to where we are now has been truly amazing. Our membership has grown nearly 40% from enactment in 2008 to present day.

Forty-five other states currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities. Internationally, we face stiff competition from provincial and Federal Governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to remain competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Credit program for 10 years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million available in the final five years. This allows Producers to plan with expectations the program will still be in place; and for local business investors interested in building infrastructure to be assured they can amortize their investment over a period of time.

The ALASKA FILM GROUP fully supports the Film Tax Credit Bill and sincerely thanks the Alaska State Legislature for creating a program that benefits all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
ALASKA FILM GROUP



Bob Crockett
President

Alpine Air Alaska

Professional Helicopter Services

Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

21 February 2011

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

Alpine Air Alaska, Inc., would like to offer our support for the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program, Senate Bill 23.

This bill has directly helped our helicopter operation receive work for two major productions, "Disaster on K2" in 2009, and "Sarah Palin's Alaska" in 2010. The revenue generated from these productions benefits both Alaskans involved with filming, and Alaskan tourism companies. As a small Alaskan-owned tourism company, we have witnessed the tourism boost from these productions, which in turn, boosted our ability to operate year-round, and to employ other Alaskans.

In a perfect world, there would be no need for tax incentives, however to remain competitive in worldwide bidding for film production... these incentives are imperative. We support development and a diversified economy in Alaska. We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years, and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years.

We would like to continue to support more film work and believe that this bill, Senate Bill 23, is pivotal to finding more work in the Film Industry for Alaskans. We would like to thank the Alaska State Legislation for helping to work towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Regards,



Amanda Adams
Office Manager
Alpine Air Alaska, Inc.



Senator Johnny Ellis
Chair Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

15 February 2011

RE: Senate Bill 23 Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Senator Ellis:

On behalf of **Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC**, I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program.

As a board member of the Alaska Film Group and the owner of a company which received a lucrative contract with Icebreaker Films/"Everybody Loves Whales", I personally experienced the benefit of this valuable incentive program. In 2010 my wife and I put 3 Alaskan employees on salary to run our small tourism business while she and I dedicated our time to *Whales*.

Because of the Film Incentive Program, my small Alaskan company was able to negotiate a licensing agreement with a LA based entertainment services company so Alaska can provide the accounting and payroll services that Hollywood producers are accustomed. Alaska has some growing pains in order to become a financially sustainable location for feature films, but I have confidence in the private sectors ability to accommodate, if the State commits to this Incentive.

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The fact is, financial incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Across the U.S. forty-five states currently have incentive programs of some type in place; demonstrating recognition by those states of the economic benefit this industry offers its labor force, area businesses and communities. Internationally, Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from provincial and federal governments in Canada and around the globe. In order to stay competitive in this global industry Alaska needs to send a clear message.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 will continue the successful economic diversification and development it has already shown while providing Alaska businesses opportunities to properly plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, **Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC** fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,

Matt Szundy

Owner

Ascending Path and Glacier Productions LLC