

HB 112 Communications

Date	Name	Voter Reg.	Issue	Action
3/5/14	Carol VanDerWege	29N – Olson	Please vote no, eliminating the funding for tax credits will be detrimental for Alaska	
3/4/14	Charles Hewitt – President Mirror Sudioa	27 R – Hawker	Give the Film Tax credit time to prove itself.	
3/5/14	Carl Weber	26D – Reinbold	Vote NO on this.	
3/5/14	Hilda Lespron	28U – Chenault	Keep the film tax, we filmed Christmas with a Capital C here in Seward and it was good for the community	
3/5/14	Eric Lizer	24U – Millett	I am a Union and Film Electrician and have worked on Movies	
3/5/14	Maya Salganek	38D – Guttenberg	Writing on Behalf of the UAF film Program and the Film Tax Credit has benefited students	
3/4/15	Katherine Johnston	21D – Johnson	Vote no on HB 112 and remove section 12 from HB 306	
3/4/14	DK Johnston	23R – Lynn	I am a full time director, producer and production manager in Alaska because of the Film Tax Credit Program	
3/3/15				

Darrell Breese

From: Carol VanDerWege <carolupnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB112, HB306

29W - Olson

Dear Rep. Stoltze,

I would like urge you to reconsider your position on HB 112 and HB306 and vote "NO". I feel these bills are detrimental to Alaska for several reasons.

The Alaska film community is made up of up and coming filmmakers, actors, directors and crew who want to make their livelihood in Alaska, not Hollywood. They bring revenue into our state through their buying power, taxes, and increased tourism. Louisiana, Georgia, Oregon, and Canada (to name just a few) have excellent incentive laws for filmmakers. Our young people shouldn't have to move out of state in order to make their living. They should be supported by our state and able to give back.

They make films about Alaska, in Alaska, so they are authentic representations of our state. When those films bring other people into the state, they spend money in our hotels, restaurants, small businesses, and department stores. We go to those films because they are made by Alaskans.

I implore you to support our film community by voting "NO" on HB112 and HB306. Thank you for your dedication to our state by continuing to represent your constituents in the House.

Sincerely,

Carol VanDerWege
3933 Hampton Dr.
Anchorage, AK. 99504

Sent from my iPad



Charles Hewitt
27 R -
Hawley

March 4, 2014

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau AK 99801

RE: HB112 Repeal Film Production Tax Credits

Dear Representative Stoltze:

I respectfully ask that you allow the Alaska Film Tax Credit Program enough time to prove itself as a serious economic stimulus.

I am a Republican and owner of Mirror Studios, a production / post-production facility in Anchorage. We have been operating in Alaska for over 20 years. An ongoing challenge that we have always faced, when trying to convince our out-of-state colleagues to conduct business in Alaska, was the additional costs directly associated with our geographic location. However, with the passing of the Film Tax Credit Program, we finally had an opportunity not only to attract an entirely new industry to our great state but also to showcase Alaska to the rest of the world. The existence of this program has opened doors for us that were previously closed – the interest from the Lower 48 is real. Subsequently, we invested heavily, in both infrastructure and personnel, to support this initiative. However, the resurrection of HB112, for the second time, threatens our current, pending, and prospective projects.

I know you can appreciate the importance of a stable tax environment. Much like the oil taxes, if you show instability, potential investors will look elsewhere. And stability or lack thereof shows up across the board. It is not industry specific. The oil companies know when the state reneges on a promise, even in a different industry. It creates unrest. In these economically challenging times we should be searching for ways to create strength and stability.

Please reconsider your efforts to eliminate the Alaska Film Tax Credit Program. I truly believe that attracting film production to Alaska will have a lasting positive impact on our economy.

Sincerely,

Charles Hewitt, President
Mirror Studios

Cc: House Finance Committee

AK . DC . LA

Darrell Breese

From: Carl Weber <alaskabr549@gmail.com> *26D - Reinbold*
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 12:29 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker
Subject: House bill 112 and 306

NO ON BOTH!! Keep our local film industry alive.
Carl Weber
Sickday Production

Darrell Breese

From: Hilda Lespron <hlespron@yahoo.com> 28U - Chenault
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:53 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Vote NO on HB112 and HB306, We want Film Incentives and Tax Credits in AK!!!

Dear Representative ,

I am a long time resident of Seward, AK. I am in the ARTS and am part of the Port City Players, one of the most historical acting troupes in Alaska. Right now we are having "Sugar Mountain" filmed in Seward and we are very proud of this. We also filmed "Christmas with a Capital C" here in Seward. Other feature length films have taken place in our great state.

I am urging you to please speak in our favor to stop HB112 and HB306 from passing today, Wednesday, and to key your colleagues in with your support. These Bills will take away our tax incentives for film and television. I just recently won first place at the 2013 Balto Film Festival and would like the opportunity to expand in this industry. I have film talent folks who want filming to happen here in Alaska and we need your help to bring this to fruition. This is still new and we need to nourish this tax credit program and apply it to wider viewed films. Open the doors to opportunity.

What you, Representative Bill Stoltze, who co-chairs the House Finance Committee do not recognize is the advertising of having films in Alaska which will attract more tourists worldwide because, yes, we are that awesome and our state is that beautiful and we do keep posterity dear. www.ktuu.com/news/news/film-tax-credit-repeal-to-receive-hearing/24809806 Keeping Tax Credits going demonstrates the collaboration and commitment it takes to have such an endeavor accomplished here in our soil and the support our legislators have to the people of the State of Alaska which makes our state so unique. Lots of folks in Hollywood look up to Alaska as the ones who filmed "Into the Wild". We are breaking the mold and people do notice. Our children will be better for it. Don't separate us from the outside. Keep Hollywood in and keep the film industry coming. Let's keep that tradition and do what we do best.

Vote NO on HB112 and HB306

Thank you,

Hilda Lespron
(907) 362-7776
PO Box 457
33508 Lincoln St #15

Seward, AK 99664-0457

“Keep music and art alive in our schools because the greatness of a country is not measured by wars that are won, by territory annexed or even the size of a deficit. It is measured by the beauty of the art work by talented hands, the sounds of the music created from the heart and by the wonder of the eyes and ears beholding them in joy. Art and music are the windows of the soul of any country. The greater the art created, the greater the country.” — Clarrissa Lee Moon

Darrell Breese

From: Eric Lizer <upconcerts@hotmail.com> 240- ~~444~~ Millett
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 4:11 AM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Eric Lizer
Subject: An Alaska Film Workers perspective on HB112

Hello Representatives,

My name is Eric Lizer, and I am a Union Film and Theater Electrician. What that means in lay-mans terms, is that I'm a lighting guy. I run heavy cable on the ground and I point lights at things.

I also manage the local chapter of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, I.A.T.S.E. Local 918.

Six years ago, before the Alaska Film Tax Incentive Program and the Feature Films that came about because of it, IATSE local 918 had 25 carded up members, who only really worked at the PAC in Anchorage. But then the Tax incentive came into reality, and the big jobs that followed it, and our membership grew to 85 full carded up Alaskans. That's an additional 60 people who paid their own money out of their own pockets (\$450 ea), to join our little union and make an investment in this growing Alaskan industry. Since then, our Local as well as a few for-profit businesses, have been actively training the support staff needed for these new jobs.

From my perspective the Film Tax Incentive is a resource development issue. Alaska is a state thick with resources to go after. Oil, Timber, Coal, Copper, and Fish. But one other resource that Alaska has in spades, is that "intangible idea" that the Real America still exist here. That Alaska is a place where a person can work hard and prosper. That Alaska is a place surrounded by endless possibilities for a person who will put the effort in. And what does this "intangible Idea" translate to? It translates into 1,956,900 Visitors to the state who spent \$1.8 Billion. Of which the State and Boroughs netted \$179 Million in taxes and revenues just last season. I surly don't need to explain to you that Tourism is a growth industry in Alaska. You only need to look at the huge Juneau Dock Upgrade and Expansion to see that Tourism is booming.

And why is that? A multitude of reasons, definitely. But the one I'm concerned with is the relentless selling of the "Alaska Dream" to the rest of the country. And that selling is done through mass media. Movies like "The Proposal" "Big Miracle" "and "On Frozen Ground". Also television shows of hard working industrious people like "Bearing Sea Gold" "Gold Rush Alaska" "the Deadliest Catch" and "Building Alaska". Even national 30 second commercials from Coors, Long John Silvers, and GMC Trucks help to build Alaska's Brand.

Just last week "Gold Rush" on the Discovery Channel won it's time slot with 1.8 Million American viewers age 18-49, and "Gold Rush Alaska" came in right behind it with 1.2 Million American viewers age 18-49, just that one night on the Discovery Channel alone! If the state of Alaska was to buy 30 minutes of advertising for 3 Million people to watch, what do you expect that would cost us? Now take those Millions of people thousands of miles away from us, who watched that hour of programing fascinated with the hard working Gold Miners and untamed wilderness, and multiply that by all the other people watching all the other Alaska themed shows on TV and in the Movies.

The Alaska Film Tax Incentive is the economic engine that brings the majority of these programs into their living rooms. The Alaska Film Tax Incentive is the tiny little kick start needed, to get TV and Film Productions made here, that then helps spark the idea in peoples minds that Alaska is a place worth seeing.

Now consider your standard Alaskan family with children growing up and graduating from High School. If you

had a child who was determined on working in the Entertainment Industry, wouldn't you want your child to have opportunities to follow that career path in Alaska? Rather than moving out of state?

In my experience, Film Jobs are Good Jobs. The Minimum Union Scale paid to the 160 trades people, who were under the jurisdiction to IATSE Local 918 on the Feature "Big Miracle" was \$24.32 an hour with 10 hour a day minimums guaranteed each day, and an additional flat \$86 a day paid into each workers health care and retirement packages. That scale is the entry rate, as I would expect over 100 of those 160 workers had little to zero prior film production experience. And I'm not talking about the actors or the talent here, I'm talking about 160 carpenters, painters, mechanics, seamstresses, electricians, laborers, food service people, accountants, and hair and makeup people. Those are the people who are under the jurisdiction of IATSE Local 918.

So, to summarize;

In the first 5 years of the program, the State offered out \$38 Million in Tax Credits, to get productions to come here and spend \$117 Million.

Between 2010-2013, IATSE Local 918, which represents the crafts and trade people of theater and film in Alaska, grew from 25 members to 85 members, who each paid \$450 to join the local and get trained in the various crafts of the Industry.

In 2010 because of varying factors Alaska's tourism industry was down to 1.5 Million visitors that year. It has since then had steady growth to almost 2 Million visitors this last year. It is very hard to make a tangible and direct correlation between Alaska's heightened national exposure from locally filmed Television, and nationally released Feature Films. But to say that there is NO correlation between all the national exposure Alaska now receives (much of it because of the Film Tax Incentive), and a 30% growth in tourism over the last four years, I feel is short sighted.

And if we don't make efforts to create opportunity, for the smart and creative youth of Alaska, they will continue to move south where they can find opportunities else ware.

I am available at anytime to provide the Representatives the National Union Contracts that dictate the wages, conditions, and benefits, that govern the Films, Commercials, and Television made in Alaska, and absolutely any thing else I can assist them with.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for the Alaska Film Tax Incentive program.

Eric Lizer
Business Agent
I.A.T.S.E. Local 918
Anchorage Alaska
(907)980-9065

Darrell Breese

From: Maya Salganek <maya@alaska.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 7:40 AM
To: Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: HB 112 - Film Tax Incentives are putting Alaskans to work!
Attachments: mollywilsonstechcv.pdf; Riffey_FILM_08_29_13.pdf; Oppose hb112 filmUAF 030414.pdf

380 Gutenberg

Dear members of House Finance,

Please accept my letter in opposition to House Bill 112 on behalf of the University of Alaska Film Program. I am happy to testify and discuss the opportunities this tax incentive program has provided to my students as well.

Attached you will find my letter, and the resumes of two of my students,. David Riffey is a current undergraduate student and has come to UAF from Texas to study film. Molly Wilson (from Haines) is alumni, having graduated just this past summer. Please note the LONG list of professional film jobs these two young people have already worked. They will continue to work in Alaska, so long as work is available. Should the work disappear, I guarantee these professionally trained students, and many like them, will follow suit.

Thank you for your service,

Maya Salganek

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Maya Salganek
Assistant Professor, Film/Video Arts
Director of Film Program
Department of Theatre/Film
University of Alaska Fairbanks
PO Box 755700
Fairbanks, AK 99775
Office: Fine Arts/Theatre 105B
w. (907) 474-5950
c. (907) 388-1080
www.uaf.edu/film
twitter: @FilmUAF
facebook: [AlaskaFilm](https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaFilm)

MOLLY WILSON

Cell: 907-888-8369

fogcutterfilms@gmail.com

www.fogcutterfilms.com

FILM & TELEVISION

GOLD RUSH 4	<i>Assistant Producer</i>	RAW TV	Discovery
SHADES OF LIFE	<i>Camera Operator</i>	Alaska Public Media	Kavelina Torres
MINING FOR RUBY	<i>1st Assistant Camera</i>	Lock and Monkey Productions	Zoe Quist
LIFE BELOW ZERO	<i>Assistant Coordinator</i>	BBC Worldwide	National Geographic
WILD WEST ALASKA	<i>Production Coordinator</i>	Jupiter Entertainment	Animal Planet
FLYING WILD ALASKA 3	<i>Field Coordinator</i>	3-Ball/ Eyeworks	Discovery
GOLD RUSH 2	<i>Assistant Producer</i>	RAW TV	Discovery
GOLD RUSH: ALASKA	<i>Researcher</i>	RAW TV	Discovery
SIZZLE	<i>Field Coordinator</i>	Trans-Global Group	Tommy Baynard
PILOT	<i>Production Coordinator</i>	Trans-Global Group	Tommy Baynard
A SMALL GOOD THING	<i>Grip</i>	Mystic Artists	Pamela Tanner Boll
STOCK FOOTAGE	<i>Assistant Camera</i>	Maddogs Television	Martin Huntley
FAIRBANKS ASYLUM	<i>Assistant Camera</i>	Agency 49	Gareth O'Neil
CORPORATE VIDEOS	<i>Camera Operator</i>	Agency 49	Dave Selle
FBX COMMERCIAL	<i>Grip</i>	Agency 49	Dave Selle
GVEA COMMERCIAL	<i>Grip</i>	Murrow Media	David Murrow
ALASKALAND	<i>2nd Assistant Camera</i>	Where's the Fire Productions	Chinonye Chukwu
THE REFUGE	<i>Co-Director</i>	EPSCoR	Tyson Hansen
GONE NATIVE	<i>Camera Assistant</i>	Terra Incognita Productions	Margartia Ramon
ALASKA STORYTELLING	<i>Production Assistant</i>	Terra Incognita Productions	Margarita Ramon
SEA ICE RESEARCH	<i>Camera & Sound Op.</i>	International Polar Year	Maya Salganek

THEATRE

BURLESQUE	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Naked Stage Productions	Rachel Blackwell
CHILKAT DANCERS	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Seawolf Studios	Tresham Gregg
WIZARD OF OZ	<i>Acting Coach</i>	Lynn Canal Community Players	Cathy Pashigian

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

B.A. Theatre: Film & Multimedia, Summer 2013

B.A. Alaska Native Studies, Expected Graduation: Fall 2014

IATSE Workshops: Intro to Grip, Intro to Set Electrics, Intro to Set Construction

DID-INSTITUTE

German Language Immersion Program in Munich, Spring 2007

HAINES HIGH SCHOOL

High School Diploma, May 2004

REFERENCES: Available Upon Request.

David Riffey

davriffe@gmail.com

+1 (907) 750-5300

Production Sound Mixer/ Sound Editor

Production Sound Experience

<i>We Breath Again</i> (Feature-Documentary) Marsh Chamberlain, Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	04/2013 – 04/2013 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Growing Native</i> (Season 1 Ep. 2) Vision Maker Media for PBS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	02/2013 – 03/2013 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Alaska Ice Cold Killers</i> (Season 2, Episode 1-2) M2 Pictures for Identification Discovery Channel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	10/2012 – 10/2012 Healy, AK
<i>Your Love</i> (Feature Film-Documentary) Alma Har'el, Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	09/2012 – 09/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Gold Diggers</i> (Pilot Episode) T Group Productions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	05/2012 – 05/2012 Nome & Fairbanks, AK
<i>Game Show</i> (Episode 1-6) University of Alaska Fairbanks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer, Co-Producer	04/2012 – 05/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Yuck Study</i> (Short-Narrative) Caleb Souder, Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	05/2011 – 05/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Green Talk TV</i> (Episode 1-3) University of Alaska Fairbanks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer	08/2011 – 02/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>The Messenger</i> (Feature Film-Narrative) Kade Mendelowitz, Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer/ Boom Operator/Foley Artist	08/2011 – 02/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Phoenix Film Festival 10th Anniversary</i> (Documentary Series) University of Advancing Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production Sound Mixer/ Cinematographer/Editor	08/2009 – 01/2010 Tempe, AZ

Post Production Sound Experience

<i>The Come Back Mile</i> (Short – Documentary) University of Alaska Fairbanks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sound Editor/Production Sound Mixer	01/2013 – 05/2013 Fairbanks, AK
<i>Janitor Life</i> (Short - Documentary) University of Alaska Fairbanks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sound Editor/Production Sound Mixer	01/2012 – 05/2012 Fairbanks, AK
<i>South by Southwest Film Festival</i> Volunteer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editor/ Audio Engineer	02/2011 – 03/2011 Austin, TX
<i>Fleurs du mal</i> (Radio - Drama) University of Advancing Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sound Mixer/ Sound Editor	01/2009 – 05/2009 Tempe, AZ
<i>Test Anxiety</i> (Short - Animation) University of Advancing Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sound Designer/Sound Mixer	01/2009 – 05/2009 Tempe, AZ

Scene Recreation (Class Assignment)	05/2009 – 08/2009
University of Advancing Technology	Tempe, AZ
• Sound Editor / Sound Mixer	
LASA Robotics Sponsor Me Video	09/2004 – 12/2004
Liberal Arts and Science Academy Robotics Team	Austin, TX
• Sound Editor/ Sound Mixer	

Production Experience

67th Annual GCI Open North American Sled Dog Championship	03/2013 – 09/2013
Murrow Media	Fairbanks, AK
• Production Assistant	
Doomsday Preppers (Season 2, Episode 14)	09/2012 – 09/2012
Sharp Entertainment for National Geographic Channel	Delta & Fairbanks, AK
• Production Assistant	

Video Game Sound Experience

Social Minor (Video Game)	08/2010 – 12/2010
Department of Defense	Tempe, AZ
• Audio Engineer/ Sound Designer	
Cyber Hero (Video Game)	08/2010 – 12/2010
Department of Defense	Tempe, AZ
• Audio Engineer/ Sound Designer/ Sound Editor	

Work Experience

Transfer Engineer/Runner	06/2013 – 08/2013
Sound Reservoir	Sydney, Australia
Job responsibilities include: Taking care of and supervising clientele, maintaining studios, basic sound editing, maintaining and organizing equipment, setting up ISDNs, recording Atmos and Foley, basic sound design and effects editing, transfer and organization of files from database through to different studios.	
Camera Operator/ Production Staff	05/2012 - Current
S.M.G (Carlson Center)	Fairbanks, AK
Record content for broadcast ranging from, hockey, mix martial arts, roller derby, basketball, concerts, and WWE. Knowledge of broadcast cameras and SSL soundboards.	
Camera Operator	08/2012 – Current
University of Alaska Fairbanks Media Relations	Fairbanks, AK
Record content for broadcast such as university sports games and events. Sports ranging from basketball, swimming, volleyball and more. Knowledge of broadcast cameras and SSL soundboards.	
Intern	05/2012 – 12/2012
Agency 49	Fairbanks, AK
Job responsibilities include: lighting, camera operating, sound, video and audio editing, general PA responsibilities.	

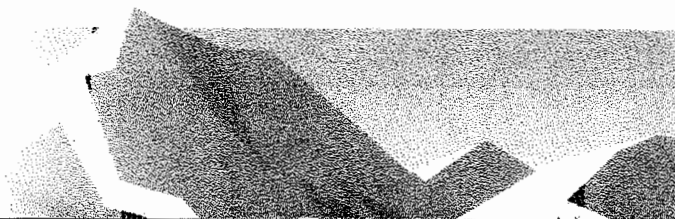
Education

05/2011 – 05/2014	University of Alaska Pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Film Production Minor in Japanese	Fairbanks, AK
08/2008 – 05/2010	University of Advancing Technology Pursued Bachelor of Arts in Digital Video	Tempe, AZ



Film

(907) 474-6590 • Fax (907) 474-7048
www.uaf.edu/film



America's Arctic University

Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee

March 04, 2014

Honorable Representatives:

House Bill 112 has been proposed to eliminate the Film Tax Incentive Program in the state of Alaska. As the academic director of the Film Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I would like to provide you with what the film tax incentive program means to our students: it means JOBS! These are jobs that are creative, interesting, diverse, and technical, and they put Alaska in the spotlight.

Since 2008, film courses at UAF have seen a 67% enrollment increase. The UAF department of Theatre and Film has *doubled* the number of majors and degree recipients a year due to the film degree program. We have attracted grant money to the program by partnering with scientists, engineers, and educators to create multi-media content about Alaska from a variety of perspectives, and we have also engaged in public/private partnerships on larger film projects. We are nearly at enrollment capacity and have more opportunities than we have time to pursue. Our program is on the map for film production in Alaska, largely because we have a trained workforce and an active track record in the industry.

This past summer we inaugurated the Film Reel Alaska Mentorship Experience and partnered film industry professionals with UAF students. 46% of the enrolled students were active students at UAF. Another 39% of the students were post-baccalaureate, non-degree seeking, or graduate students interested in new career opportunities. 14% of our students were high school students earning college credit during their summer break. 50% of all the students in our training program received paid positions within six months or less.

Should the film tax incentive program disappear this year, the tax dollars wasted will include the time and energy spent in developing, creating, and preparing for the growth of this industry. It will include the wasted resource of trained Alaskans ready to work in this business, and we will certainly lose momentum and traction we have gained towards creating more jobs. When the jobs go away, so will those that are eager to work in this dynamic and diverse business.

Capacity building takes time. It takes investment. It takes vision. The film tax incentives are providing a means to get our voices heard and stories seen to a wider audience than ever before, and Alaskans deserve the attention.

Sincerely,

Maya Salganek
Director, Film Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks
maya@alaska.edu. (907) 474-5950



Darrell Breese

From: Katherine Johnston <katievanderwege@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:32 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB112 and HB306

21D
Johnson

Hello Respected Rep. Stoltze,

I am writing you today to urge you to vote no on HB112 and remove section 12 from HB306.

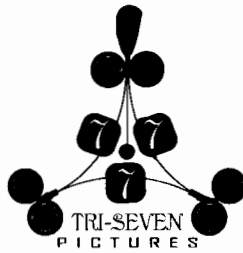
The Alaska State Film Tax Incentive is important. It is important because of the positive impact it has on Alaska businesses, because it provides jobs that would otherwise be sent out of state and it keeps families here in the state that they love.

I know you have all of the facts and figures, but I'd like to put a face on why the film tax incentive is important. My husband is a filmmaker. It has been his passion since he was eight years old. In order for him to complete his education and receive a Master's Degree we had to leave Alaska and thought we might never be able to return if he wanted to work in the industry that he worked so hard to get into. We were able to return home to our beloved Alaska when the Film Tax Incentive was enacted. Alaska is our home. It's where we want to raise our family, it's where we own property and where we pay our taxes. It is where I work for a non-profit advocating for Alaskans who experience developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Please vote against HB112 and HB306 and keep Alaska's filmmakers at home, generating revenue for this great state.

I would be more than happy to provide you with any information or answer any questions you may have about our story. I sincerely appreciate your time, consideration and dedication to the great State of Alaska.

Kind Regards,
Katherine Johnston
1926 Stonegate Cir.
Anchorage, AK 99515
907-690-0609



DK Johnston
23 R
Lynn
4 MARCH 2014

HB112

To Members of the House Finance Committee

My name is D.K. Johnston and I am a full time Assistant Director, Producer, and Production Manager here in Alaska. I am a graduate of the UAA Journalism Program and have an MFA in Film Production from the New York Film Academy. With the exception of a brief stay in LA for school I have been a resident of Alaska since 1997. I am the owner and operator of Tri-Seven Pictures and founder of the Alaska Filmmakers website and social network. I have been working full time in the Alaska Film Industry since 2010, an industry built upon Alaska's Film Production Incentive Program.

I am writing to express my disapproval of HB112 and its goal to eliminate the Alaska Film Production Incentive Program. Since last year's introduction of HB112 the Alaska Film Community has seen more training, more development, more jobs and investments in the State of Alaska. However, the introduction of this bill was a stumble in that development process, and we continue to delay Alaska's opportunity to grow in this highly competitive industry.

When the community learned that this bill was once again going to be debated I had only one question. Why? This community has worked hard to educate and discuss the numerous benefits of the program. We've worked with the state to modify the incentives to increase Alaskan jobs and bring money into the state's economy. Our community has worked hard to promote the state and all the resources it has to offer. We have cooperated and worked hand-in-hand with the state. If there is some aspect of this field we have yet to touch on or explain in detail I encourage you to ask our community questions. I assure you that you will find a wealth of information within our ranks that can explain every aspect of this industry from top to bottom. We are not Hollywood. We are Alaska's storytellers and we want to work and play in our own backyard. I urge you to vote against this bill, and let us get back to work

Sincerely,

D.K. Johnston
Owner, Tri-Seven Pictures
Anchorage, Alaska
907-440-2641
dk.trisevenpictures@gmail.com

Darrell Breese

From: Goodrum, Brent W (DNR) <brent.goodrum@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 9:03 PM
To: Lapiene
Cc: Fogels, Edmund J (DNR); Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Menefee, Wyn (DNR)
Subject: Re: Off road reality show being filmed in Alaska

Scott,

Thank you for your communication below. The Division of Mining, Land and Water agrees that it will not be advantageous to have a reality TV program that shows people violating the law on state lands and potentially providing encouragement to the public implying that this is accepted behavior. However, filming could be done in a way that displays outdoor adventure without damaging the land and violating regulations. We have been communicating with this group in an attempt to figure out what they are wanting to do. We will work to find out if there is a way to appropriately permit them as we always try to find a way to authorize companies for an appropriate use of state land. However, that does not mean at the expense of our valuable natural resources.

Keep in mind that Generally Allowed Uses (11 AAC 96.020) allow access using a highway vehicle with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a pickup truck and four-wheel-drive vehicle, on or off an established road easement, if the use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion; or using a recreational-type off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler, on or off an established road easement if use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion.

A generally allowed use listed in 11 AAC 96.020 is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) activities employing wheeled or tracked vehicles must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface damage;
- (2) vehicles must use existing roads and trails whenever possible;
- (3) activities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes
 - (A) disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems;
 - (B) changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes; and
 - (C) disturbance of fish and wildlife resources;
- (4) cuts, fills, and other activities causing a disturbance listed in (3)(A) - (C) of this section must be repaired immediately, and corrective action must be undertaken as may be required by the department;

Uses beyond those generally allowed or for commercial recreation facility that remains overnight require either permit or commercial recreation day use registration. This use is likely considered commercial recreation use.

We are aware of their trip to the Knik Glacier as a scouting trip and are in discussions with them on that. We could potentially authorize other uses under a commercial recreation permit or a miscellaneous land use permit. At this point we simply do not have enough information to understand just what they want to do. Furthermore, they need to clarify to us the specific locations of where they intend to go to determine if they are even on state land for their anticipated activities.

Thanks again for sharing of this information and your concern. I appreciate your input. If you have any further information or questions please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Very Respectfully,

Brent Goodrum
Director, DMLW

On Mar 3, 2014, at 11:18 AM, "Lapiene" <lapiene@usa.net> wrote:

Mr Goodrum,

I am concerned about the negative impressions that will result from the current effort to film a off road reality show here in Alaska. They began filming this past weekend.

I have first hand experience with this company when they filmed a Black Gold show on Doyon 19 while drilling in NPRA. The producers clearly state that they are interested in drama. When there is no drama they create it thru editing and narration.

Many in the off road community are opposed to this project. In fact not one person has responded in support of the project on the state's most popular 4x4 forum, www.alaska4x4network.com The discussion concerning this topic is open to members only so I have included members responses at the end of this email.

It is a lot to read. By including them I hope you will get a very good understanding of our concerns. Basically we believe that nothing good can come from this show. It will portray off road recreation as reckless with no regard for the environment. That is the exact opposite of what we believe and practice. We are concerned that groups opposed to motorized recreation will use footage from the show to get more trails closed.

It took our organization over six months to get a ML&W permit to make one repair to a trail this tv show wants to use. The project is costing us \$40,000 to repair 160' of trail. In addition we have to post a bond for five years. This reality show has the potential to damage many more trails, requiring large sums of money to repair the impacts.

If this tv series is allowed to proceed the producers must be held to the very highest standards of Tread Lightly principles. The producers should be required to obtain permits for each trail used and post bonds to repair any impact caused by their activities.

I would also like to suggest that the DNR require a State employee be present whenever the tv crew is in the field. Someone who can document the before and after condition of the trails used.

The following is a letter from the producers

I'm doing research for a new History Channel series. We will have several teams of Alaska's most hardcore Off Road adventurers take on the most challenging and diverse trails that Alaska has to offer, and push themselves and their trucks to the absolute limit. This extreme expedition will take us across America's final frontier, from the Northern shores of Prudhoe Bay all the way to the far south, the grizzly bear capital of the world, Kodiak Island.

We are planning to film from approximately end of May for 6 weeks with Off-Road vehicles with experienced off road drivers and with a support staff with production vehicles. The areas that we are interested in being granted permission for filming are some of the most famous trails that Alaska has to offer. We are looking to start near Deadhorse, Alaska and travel south on the Trans Alaskan Highway towards Fairbanks, then to Anchorage and finally heading south and taking a barge to Homer, Alaska.

The trails may include Knik Glacier Run, Brooks Range Trail, Eureka Trails, Stampede Trail, Fairbanks Circle, Rainbow Mountain, Purches Creek, Fish Lake, Homer Trail and Kodiak Island. In addition, we are interested in trails around Boulder Creek area and the 55 Mile Trail near Fairbanks. Therefore, we would like permission to be on your land area to film and to do the off-roading we need to do for this show. Plus, being granted camping and event permission. We'd like to know what is the procedure for this approval and what do we need to do next.

Thank you for your valuable assistance, guidance and insight to obtaining all necessary approvals, permits necessary to be a positive experience for all concern. I can be reached at 818-295-6966 ext 4123 or cell at 818-378-4439. I look forward to working with you on this request.

Best Regards,
David

David Scoot Jones
OP Researcher

Original Productions, LLC
308 W. Verdugo Ave.
Burbank, CA 91502 USA
O: 818-295-6966 ext. 4123
F: 818-688-3292
M: 818-378-4439
E: djones@origprod.com

Response from the OHV community

I agree with you though. We REALLY don't need this. This kind of exposure is just what will end up ruining our way of life. Too many stupid people will think its cool. Next thing you know, all our trails are inundated with irresponsible, uneducated, and unprepared morons who tear everything up and get hurt. Game over.

Heard about this Wednesday, same conclusion. 1. Whoever participates will be made to look like fools 2. It will reflect poorly on the off road community. 3. Participants will probably end up babysitting a film crew etc.

I have spoken with this group a few months ago about this series . I really didn't think it was going to evolve into anything . I have spoken with these guys about there expectations and how they want to portrait our sport . The bottom line is they want drama . I have great fears on how the off-road community will be seen by the masses . If this takes place we should get involved and try and see that they are abiding by the rules and not destroying the trails . I have not and will not commit to anything that will make us out to be a bad element .

I am not happy this is taking place anymore than most of you guys . But if this does take place , a few key guys need to get involved and steer this in a positive direction .

I think if we ignore this situation we will be very upset at ourselves that we sat around and did nothing .

Scott as Gary knows I was planning on calling you this weekend , Gary and I spoke Wednesday and I expressed my concerns to him . In the end guys my biggest concern is our community and how we are seen . I have nothing to gain here guys by being involved , in fact I have a lot to loose if people don't want to deal with me or avoid me due to my involvement . So guys my question is do we have a choice? Do we sit back and let these guys wing it or do we get involved and try and make this out to be as positive as we can . I have more info on what kind of rigs they would like and what the general idea of the show is .

Ed, very well put. I never talked with them so this is all the detail that I have. It's 'reality' tv and from what I've seen it's not about promoting positive images. The way I see it there are a couple options, make sure they post bonds big enough to repair any physical damage or shut it down. The event will require permits from DNR. They have already approached the MSB. This outfit was here a few years ago and asked the MSB for permission to use their land and the Boro said no.

I have a very hard time seeing this doing anything positive for the sport. Even if tread lightly members were driving every rig. I try my best but sometimes I bend the rules. The show will show that stuff over and over. Everyone can imagine what drama looks like in this sport, getting stuck, as in buried, breakage, lost tempers, throwing tools.

This same outfit went to Doyon 19 one winter when it was drilling way out in NPRA. There was no drama so they made it up. Most of us wanting to explore for oil on the tundra didn't see the show as helping our cause.

Drama sells otherwise it would be a PBS show.

I seriously hope this does not happen. It could be extremely detrimental to our sport and land access. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help. Can we petition to keep

them from doing the shoot? I suppose the state just wants money and isn't concerned about image....

There has already been quite a few who have talked to Original Productions about this. Some have already done interviews and have been filmed along with adding their perspectives regarding logistics, environmental concerns, and ethics.

At this point it is safe to say that there is no clear idea of what this "show" will be about, how it will be done, or who exactly will be involved and on what levels. Original Productions is being very elusive as to what and how they are giving out info and are way behind logistically with how this will happen.

Caution and a proactive approach is very much needed in dealing with this. I strongly recommend that more Alaskans start asking questions and make known their concerns and ideas instead of sitting back and allowing others who may not have the best of intentions dictate the producing of a show like this.

An Ultimate Adventure, or Camel Trophy style endeavor that educates and honestly portrays traveling off-highway may be able to be done and showed to the masses in a responsible and non dramatic way. But it will take direction and oversight to be done in a way that is beneficial to all.

I thought the show axe men was pretty real until I started working part time for a crew in Wa. Then I realized how made up 90% of the show was. No respectable company would hire a new guy, give him a saw, screw off most the day, trash equipment and still have a job. Safety is paramount on the job site whether your on the side of the mtn or on a flat landing. After working with the crews, the things I saw in the show blew my mind. It really gave bad image to the public on the loggers who made a living in that profession. It made them out to be hot tempered, wreckless and stupid people who cared not for the environment.

I did a bit of Googling and they are I guess the folks responsible for many of the "reality" shows.

Ice Road Truckers, Axe Men, etc

<http://origprod.com/shows/>

Not sure if any of you guys have watched those shows recently but they are getting just a bit ridiculous.

If the show was more of a PBS or hunting/fishing type show I don't think it would be bad. Filming some guys on trail runs enjoying Alaska, showing the scenery and wildlife, maybe some history of the area, etc... You know... the reason that we get out in the woods.

I have a feeling (and I think most everyone else does) that it will be more Top Gear style... more or less promoting the thoughts that going off road means a free for all. Destroying trucks & trail.

Scott/Ed- If these guys really want to come to Kodiak for this, please let me know. As much as I'd rather not, I'd rather be involved in this and try to control it than let some of the other "elements" here run wild with stupidity.

I like to see all the people saying they are want/going to be involved to help control this. Being involved does not mean you will have any control. 95% of wheeling is just driving and riding bumps and that is not going to make good ratings on TV. They will do everything they can to make drama and the highlights will be all the "tearing up" the trails. Being involved is just meaning being part of the problem.

I had contact when they first posted about this with Susan. We talked a couple of time and when I expressed concern about the way all reality shows portray the people and places they film, and how I was not going to be involved with it if it was going to turn into that. I have not heard back from them in months. I guess the plan is to back you look the fool tearing up the Alaskan wilderness.

I would like to be part of it if it was going to portrayed in a good sense, but anyone that watches TV can see what sells it is not going to be us driving on the trails showing our wilderness.

Look at *Gold Rush* they dig dirt and wash dirt looking for gold, right. There is very little of that it is more the drama and if there is none they make some.

Exactly why I'd rather not have anything to do with it. I really hope this doesn't come to fruition.

I'll bet a dollar to your dime that once this airs it will bring more unwanted scrutiny and trail closures.

They were out with us at knik yesterday filming one of the "teams"
The guys were cool, but I didn't get a good vibe with all of the scripted questions they were asking.

Thank you for your time. I would like to hear your opinions and discuss our concerns either in person or over the phone.

Scott Lapiene
Mat-Su Trails Council Inc
907-373-7568 hm
907-351-5534 cell
lapiene@usa.net