

Konrad Jackson

From: cypharius@gmail.com on behalf of D.K. Johnston <dk.trisevenpictures@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 3:17 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Mike Chenault; Representative_Bob_Herron@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Andy Josephson
Cc: Konrad Jackson; Tyra Smith-MacKinnon; Rob Earl; Jeff Turner; Robin Sahnaw; Kim Skipper; Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Alaska Film Tax Credit Program

March 11th, 2013

Dear Members of the Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is D.K. Johnston and I am resident of Anchorage District 21. I am a full time independent filmmaker and production consultant under my company Tri-Seven Pictures, I'm also an Adjunct Professor of Documentary Film Production at the University of Alaska Anchorage, a Board Member of the Alaska Film Group, and Founder and Producer of the Alaska Filmmakers Web Series and several associated social networks. I have been a resident of the Alaska since 1997 with the exception of a brief period spent in Los Angeles while obtaining my MFA in Film Production. My return to Alaska was prompted by the passing of the Alaska Film Tax Credit Program in 2008. Since my return I have worked alongside numerous crews, both local and non-local, for feature films, commercials, and non-fiction television shows.

It has come to my attention that HB 112, introduced by Rep Stoltze, threatens to eliminate Alaska's Film Tax Credit Incentive Program, thereby killing this emerging industry before it ever gets a chance to fully develop. Now I am aware you are receiving a good number of the messages today on this topic so I won't repeat the arguments concerning the tax credit you are very much aware of by now.

What I would like to point out to you are the creative and educational impacts this incentive has had on the Alaskan community. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has established a Bachelor Degree Program for Film giving students the opportunity, and resources needed, to bring their stories to life. The Anchorage King Career Center has added Film Production in addition to their Television and Radio course. Teachers in many of our high schools are offering after school programs and summer workshops for their students to learn film and television production.

The UAA Theater Program has helped to produce a number of actors who have been featured in many of the films and commercial productions coming into the state, and as a result the number of SAG/AFTRA members in Alaska is growing every year. Our local IATSE Union 918 has seen a large increase in their membership, and are working to develop their own film division and constitution to provide more opportunities for their members. Also through the state's work force development program IATSE, and similar organizations like

Alaska Crew Training, are able to provide workshops and classes to educate and train a whole new workforce waiting for the next production to put them to good use.

Through these courses, and many others like them throughout the state, our storytellers are able to put their talents to work on their own projects as well. Events like Open Project Night, the J.U.M.P. Society Film Festival, the Fairbanks Film Festival, and the Anchorage International Film festival have been able to play host to a variety of film screenings featuring stories written and produced right here in Alaska by Alaskans.

We have a very creative and hard working film community here in Alaska, and this incentive provides them with opportunities that would normally require all of them to relocate elsewhere in order to pursue their dreams and develop their talents. I ask you to not support the repeal of the Film Tax Credit, and instead support the growth of an industry that will only help further the creative minds of our storytellers both young and old.

If you would like to speak further on the subject my door is always open.

Thank you for your time with this important issue...

Sincerely,

D.K. Johnston
Tri-Seven Pictures
907-440-2641
dkjohnston.com
alaskafilmmakers.com
Anchorage, AK

"Everyone has a story to tell" - Alaska Filmmakers

Konrad Jackson

From: Jonathan Huff-AUP <jon@aup-ak.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:06 AM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson; Konrad Jackson; Rep. Mike Chenault; Tyra Smith-MacKinnon; Rep. Bob Herron; Rob Earl; Rep. Charisse Millett; Jeff Turner; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Robin Sahnnow; Rep. Dan Saddler; Kim Skipper; Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: HB112 Concerns
Attachments: HB112 Concerns.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today to voice my concerns for HB112. My attached letter lists my concerns. I appreciate your time in looking at this important issue.

Thank You,

Jonathan Huff, Owner
Alaska Universal Productions
P.O. Box 81132
Fairbanks, AK 99708
www.aup-ak.com
jon@aup-ak.com
907-451-4833

Konrad Jackson

From: Karen Tallent <karentallent@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:24 PM
To: Konrad Jackson
Subject: FW: Please do not support HB 112!

----- Forwarded Message

From: Karen Tallent <karentallent@gci.net>
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2013 12:02:28 -0900
To: <Representative.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov>
Conversation: Please do not support HB 112!
Subject: Please do not support HB 112!

March 12, 2013

Dear Representative Olson,

I am extremely concerned that HB 112, introduced by Representative Stoltze, threatens to eliminate Alaska's Film Tax Credit Incentive Program, thereby killing this emerging industry before it ever gets a chance to fully develop. I know first hand, the film industry has had a positive economic impact on both my livelihood and my community. In fact, a 2012 Legislative Audit of the program showed a \$2 increase in economic output for every \$1 of tax credit issued by the state.

I also understand that tax credits are awarded only after the conclusion of filming, after dollars have circulated through the economy and all those dollars are verified by an independent, state certified CPA.

If HB 112 should pass:

- 1) **HB 112 would kill the film** industry resulting in a loss of revenue to my business and eliminating jobs for Alaskans.
- 2) The film program is vital and eliminating it before allowing it to go into effect is a major setback.
- 3) Millions have already been invested in a sound stage, trucks, equipment...**how do we recover from this investment?**
- 4) Hundreds of Alaskans have been trained and others are scheduled to be trained...**how does the future look for our emerging workforce?**
- 5) Alaskan companies see tax relief by purchasing tax credits, allowing for new investments and new jobs for the Alaskan workforce.

The global film industry is extremely competitive. **HB 112 has sent a chill through the industry.** Productions searching around the world for a reliable, stable environment are now looking at Alaska as unstable and too risky to invest. With the possibility of the new 10-year program being repealed before it even goes into effect, producers will simply not invest time/energy or money into future projects in Alaska.

Economic diversification is good for everyone. This bill will eliminate the Alaska Film Incentive Program, decrease efforts to diversify our economy, eliminate jobs, and discourage those hoping to invest in careers and business opportunities that support economic in Alaska. It is crucial that HB 112 not be allowed to move forward!

Thank you for considering this crucial issue!

Sincerely,
Karen Tallent

----- End of Forwarded Message

Konrad Jackson

From: Simon Keelan <simonckeelan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:01 PM
To: Konrad Jackson
Subject: HB112

12 March 2013

Dear Labor and Commerce committee Members,

I have recently been informed of HB 112 and must say I am disappointed that there are measures being introduced to eliminate the Film Tax Incentive even before it gets a chance to get off the ground.

The film industry is my life. My father helped to pioneer the industry here in Alaska and I want to some day pass that on to my children. The film industry enabled me to get a great house for my family, no longer relying on unpredictable apartment managers.

Will we ever be Hollywood? No. And thank goodness for that. We don't need to be Hollywood for this incentive to work. As a fellow Alaskan I'm sure you understand how unique and beautiful our home is. What better way to show it off than through film?

I worked on Everybody Loves Whales and saw first-hand how the tax incentive benefited the state. Do you have any idea how much cold-weather gear was purchased here at local shops during that movie? It was like a fashion show with these guys buying the next great piece of gear and showing it off on set the next day. Then there is all the food that was purchased for crew, transportation and housing. The tax incentive was what helped to bring it all here.

There were other projects that I worked on that all share similar stories, but the basic sentiment remains. The incentive worked. Every out-of-town crew had the same thing to say, that the film follows the incentives. The decisions on where to shoot often land on the least expensive location. Incentivization works.

Every other state that has implemented an incentive program has seen success in the industry.

I have focused my education and experience on this industry. I have traveled the state helping with classes to teach people interested in the industry. I am PROUD to be in this industry. If the tax incentive gets killed with HB 112, I will be forced to find other work and perhaps even go back to school for a different career. At 38 years of age, I'm not exactly a spring chicken anymore.

This isn't just about me. This is about family and friends. This is about the hard-working talent living here in Alaska. We all deserve a chance to make the state proud of what we can do. Please give us that chance.

Sincerely,

The “beardi” Grip in town

Simon Keelan

Konrad Jackson

From: Tess Weaver <tess.weaver@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 9:12 PM
To: Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov; Konrad Jackson; Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov; Tyra Smith-MacKinnon; Bob.Herron@akleg.gov; Rob Earl; Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov; Jeff Turner; Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov; Robin Sahnaw; Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov; Kim Skipper; Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: Please Oppose House Bill 112
Attachments: Tess Weaver - HB 112 Opposition.docx

March 11th, 2013

Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Rep. Stoltze's House Bill 112, which would eliminate the Alaska film and television production incentives. As someone who has established a successful career and business through the Alaska Film Incentive, I am in full support of the program, and would suffer severe repercussions if HB 112 passes.

HB 112 would kill a new and developing sector of Alaska's economy that I have personally put my heart and soul into along with many other Alaskan film industry professionals. Not only are we living our dreams every day, we have also dedicated our time and skill sets to mentor and teach a handful of eager Alaskans wanting to be a part of and create a career through the film industry.

As a costumer, I have the honor of creating amazing partnerships with local retail businesses. Just the other day while shopping for a national commercial with a local production services company, I got to reminisce with the 6th Ave Outfitters team about the business brought to the store with productions like Big Miracle, Frozen Ground, and Wildlike. With film and commercial jobs booked all over our state, I myself have purchased thousands of dollars of outdoor gear, something I most likely would never have done when I was working retail at Nordstrom before the film incentive passed. I have also been able to pay off quite a bit of my college loan debt thanks to my credentials and paychecks from the film incentive! These stories are small examples of the millions of dollars invested in our state and local businesses through the film incentive.

The film incentive has given me such a great pride in being from and working in the state of Alaska! As a true networker and social butterfly, I am constantly connecting with new producers and directors as well as re-connecting with past producers, promoting our state and inviting them to check out the Film Office's

website! When re-connecting with producers and talents I have had the honor of working with, they all say the same thing about our state: there is no place in the World like Alaska, and the amazing crew talent Alaska has to offer surpasses that of other states!

We have a truly wonderful and beneficial program going with the film incentive, let's keep it going and continue to build our state's economy and work force.

Thank you,

-Tess Weaver | www.tessiestyle.com

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We have a truly wonderful and beneficial program going with the film incentive, let's keep it going and continue to build our state's economy and work force.

Thank you,

-Tess Weaver | www.tessiestyle.com



Konrad Jackson

From: Matt Szundy <matt@theascendingpath.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 5:01 PM
To: Kim Skipper; Konrad Jackson; Tyra Smith-MacKinnon; Rob Earl; Jeff Turner; Robin Sahnou
Subject: I'm in support of AK's Film Incentive program!
Attachments: AP letter against HB112.pdf; GP letter against HB112.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Aides,

Please see attached letters against HB112 which would kill Alaska's Film Incentive Program.

I own and run two Alaskan companies, one is a tourism hiking and climbing guide service, the other is a film production support company. In 2008 we co-produced a climbing documentary that was going to film in Argentina, but drawn here for Alaska's Incentive. We sold our Tax credit to an Alaskan Fishing corporation who saved a small percentage on their taxes- everyone involved agreed, this program is a win-win.

Since the incentive program was created, both of my companies have boomed as a result; for example, I became a paid consultant to an entertainment accounting firm in LA, and several of our climbing guides have recently been cast as stuntmen/actors (and therefore received many thousands in residual moneys and health insurance).

The economic impact for local Alaskans is very real and the film industry globally is motivated by tax credits, please vote against HB112.

Sincerely,

Matt Szundy

www.AscendingPath.com

www.glacierfilmproductions.com



Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

March 11th, 2013

It has come to my attention that HB 112, introduced by Rep Stoltze, threatens to eliminate Alaska's Film Tax Credit Incentive Program, thereby killing this emerging industry before it ever gets a chance to fully develop. I know first hand, the film industry has had a positive economic impact on both my business and my community. In fact, a 2012 Legislative Audit of the program showed a \$2 increase in economic output for every \$1 of tax credit issued by the State.

I also understand that tax credits are awarded only after the conclusion of filming, after dollars have circulated through the economy and all those dollars are verified by an independent, state certified CPA.

If HB 112 should pass my business will suffer:

- **HB112 would kill the film industry** resulting in a loss of revenue to my business and eliminating jobs for Alaskans.
- The film program is vital to my business and eliminating it before allowing it to go into effect is a major setback.
- Millions have already been invested in a sound stage, trucks and equipment....**how do we recover from this investment?**
- Hundreds of Alaskans have been trained and others are scheduled to be trained....**how does the future look for our emerging workforce?**
- Alaskan companies see tax relief by purchasing tax credits, allowing for new investments and new jobs for the Alaskan workforce.
-

The global film industry is extremely competitive. **HB112 has sent a chill through the industry.** Productions searching around the world for a reliable, stable environment are now looking at Alaska as unstable and too risky to invest. With the possibility of the new 10-year program being repealed before it even goes into effect, producers will simply not invest time/energy or money into future projects in Alaska.

Economic diversification is good for everyone. This bill will eliminate the Alaska Film Incentive program, decrease efforts to diversify our economy, eliminate jobs and discourage those hoping to invest in careers and business opportunities that support economic growth in Alaska. It is crucial that HB112 not be allowed to move forward.

Thank you for your time with this important issue...

Sincerely,

Matt Szundy

Owner



Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

March 11th, 2013

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Sincerely,

Matt Szundy

CEO/Producer

Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

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Thank you for your time with this important issue...

Sincerely,

Chris Thomas
Production Coordinator, Grip and Lighting
Lifelong Alaskan

Konrad Jackson

From: joseph hamilton <jgzs@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 1:16 AM
To: Konrad Jackson
Cc: Rep. Mike Chenault
Subject: Fwd: HB 112

Begin forwarded message:

From: joseph hamilton <jgzs@acsalaska.net>
Date: March 12, 2013 2:09:53 AM PDT
To: Representative.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov
Subject: HB 112
content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
content-transfer-encoding: quoted-printable
x-smtp-server: smtp.acsalaska.net
x-universally-unique-identifier: afa34141-7576-4427-b2b1-c3678bbbfaf6
message-id: <9BFC18D5-146D-49A9-9B6E-4CE927A4316B@acsalaska.net>
mime-version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v1084)

We need the tax incentive.

It was passed and we are about to see the impact.

I,m a production designer and have two features coming out this year that was a direct result of the previous tax incentive.

My two sons have joined me and we have a family run business that depends on film work.

Please put this HB 112 to bed and may it rest in peace.

Joe Hamilton 907.575.8007

Jesse Hamilton 907.575.8017

Casey Hamilton 907.575.8097

March 12th, 2013

Dear Labor and Commerce Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that HB 112, introduced by Rep Stoltze, threatens to eliminate Alaska's Film Tax Credit Incentive Program, thereby killing this emerging industry before it ever gets a chance to fully develop. I know first hand, the film industry has had a positive economic impact on both my business and my community. In fact, a 2012 Legislative Audit of the program showed a \$2 increase in economic output for every \$1 of tax credit issued by the State.

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Thank you for your time with this important issue...

Sincerely,

Jonathan Huff, Owner
Alaska Universal Productions
Fairbanks, AK
907-451-4833



Talkeetna Air Taxi

March 11th, 2013

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Sincerely,

Konrad Jackson

From: Rep. Kurt Olson
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:53 AM
To: Konrad Jackson
Subject: Fwd: Film Tax Credits
Attachments: image001.png

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sweeney, Tara" <TSweeney@asrc.com>
Date: March 11, 2013 1:02:07 PM AKDT
To: <representative.kurt.olson@akleg.gov>, <representative.bill.stoltze@akleg.gov>, <representative.benny.nageak@akleg.gov>
Subject: Film Tax Credits

Good afternoon Representatives Olson, Stoltze and Nageak:

On behalf of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, I am writing in support of the film tax credits available in Alaska. ASRC is in support of this program because we have seen several of our own shareholders put to work as a result of the growing interest in Alaska's film industry. Several of our shareholders worked as extras on-screen and on the production crew for the film Big Miracle. I have personally been in contact with people from the Arctic Slope region who benefitted because of their sewing skills and were put to work within the costume department. These are tangible employment opportunities for our shareholders and other Alaskans, and it provides an alternative for those who may not be interested in working within our primary industry, the energy sector.

As a result of these tangible benefits, ASRC supports the film tax credits and the film industry in Alaska. We appreciate your leadership in the House, and I am available to discuss this issue at your convenience. I can be reached during the day at 339-6066 or on my cell, anytime, at 952-8888.

A special thank you to you and your staff for the time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney

Katuk

Tara M. Sweeney

Senior Vice President

External Affairs

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

(907) 339-6031 Phone

(907) 339-6028 Fax

tsweeney@asrc.com

www.asrc.com



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