

# ANCHORAGE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Anchorage\_LIO@legis.state.ak.us  
907-269-0111/ phone, 907-269-0229/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Ron Holmstrom  
REPRESENTING: SCREEN ACTORS GUILD & AMERICAN FEDERATION  
OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS  
BILL#/ SUBJECT: H.B. 112  
COMMITTEE &  
HEARING DATE: LABOR & COMMERCE 3/15/2013

SINCE THE FILM PROGRAM BEGAN THE SAG-AFTRA  
MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ALASKAN ACTORS HAS  
MORE THAN TRIPLED. THE REPUTATION OF OUR  
POOL OF TALENT HAS BEEN GETTING AROUND IN  
HOLLYWOOD.

THAT THE HIGHER PAYING JOBS IN FILMS GO  
TO EXPERIENCED OUTSIDERS IS MUCH LIKE THE EARLY  
OIL INDUSTRY. ALSO LIKE THE OIL INDUSTRY,  
ALASKANS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO WIN THE BIGGER  
ROLES & BETTER PAYING JOBS AS THEY BECOME  
BETTER TRAINED. PRODUCTION COMPANIES ~~ARE~~ HAVE  
BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE THE WEALTH OF TALENT  
IN OUR STATE.

WHEN I WAS HIRED AS ACTOR FOR LOCATIONS OUTSIDE  
OF HOLLYWOOD, I DON'T RECALL EVER WORKING WITH  
ACTORS FROM THE STATE WHERE WE WERE SHOOTING  
I WAS AMAZED AT THE NUMBER OF ACTORS FROM MY  
ALASKA THEATRE COMMUNITY ON THE FILMS SHOOTING HERE.  
LASTLY, A LOT OF US ARE ALREADY RECEIVING  
RESIDUAL CHECKS FOR THE FILMS WE HAVE ACTED  
IN HERE. LET'S KEEP THE JOBS COMING &  
GROW AN INDUSTRY.

Thank you for taking time to allow public testimony on this very important topic. I am the owner and manager of Talking Circle Media. My company is an Alaskan Film, Television, and Video Production company. I began this career here in Alaska in 1984. And then started my own company in 1989 in Anchorage. I currently have 6 full-time employees, but have had as many as 17 part-time persons under my hire. I am here today to voice my opinion Against HB112, And urge all House of Rep. members to either Kill Bill HB112 or vote against it.

My company has experienced gross revenues of around \$500,000 spent by outside film and TV companies, directly related to the Film tax Credit. This is over the previous 5 years. Even this week I am either renting out camera equipment or crew people on Film tax credit related projects as we speak. The current film tax credit brings money not only to my staff and their families, but Millions of dollars in income to hundreds of non-video related companies all over Urban and Rural Alaska.

Last session I testified in agreement that the previous film tax credit needed revisions, and with the stewardship of the last legislation, those revisions were made after much public discussion. And with good judgment, the House and Senate body passed the revised film tax credit bill. With its new restrictions, truly is a local jobs creation bill.

So I am very confused that anyone in this current House body would present HB112, which desecrates all the work everyone put into crafting the new film tax credit bill that starts this summer.

I believe HB112 is based on misguided information, which is being by presented to the House leaders by biased individuals who have no first hand knowledge of the success of the film tax credit.

The State of Alaska costs almost no public Money, but has seen over \$110 Million spent in Alaska from Film and TV companies in Alaska, at the current costs of only around \$9 Million in tax credits redeemed by corporations, in the past 5 years. And there are dozens of Film companies that spend lot's of money in Alaska, that applied for film tax credits, but because of various reasons they decided to never finish the process to be issued a Film Tax Credit Voucher.

I would call the Film tax credit a pretty good return on investment.

Again, I am here today to voice my opinion Against HB112, And urge all House of Rep. members to either Kill Bill HB112 or vote against it. Thank you and please ask me any questions.

Jonathan Butzke  
Owner, Talking Circle Media  
5630 B Street  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
907-317-4126