

Darrell Breese

From: Jonathan Butzke <jon@talkingcirclemedia.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 9:22 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 112 testimony

Good Afternoon Rep. Stoltze,

I saw a notice for hearings of HB 112.
on March 15th, 2013.

After watching the testimony start for HB112, I saw you leave the testimony meeting. I am not sure what that meant if anything?

If you had stayed you would have heard my testimony as partially summarized below.

Personally, I would urge you to pull HB 112, as I feel last years session passed bill (HB 67), will prove those changes that were inserted into the program will make this a hugely successful jobs development program.

Even without the changes, The last 5 years of the program brought Outside companies spending in Alaska of over \$100 Million, with a five year cost to the State of AK of under \$10 Million. If you consulted the factual up-to-date reports from the State accounting offices and you will find that "Actually", only around \$9 Million in Film Tax Credits has been redeemed by Alaska Corporations, not \$35 million spent to date, as you are stating publicly!

Any amount of tax credit value can be earned and can be issued, but only a real cash cost value is realized by the State of Alaska Treasury, when an Alaskan Corporation redeems the Film Tax Credit, which they would have had purchased from the Original Film Tax Credit Holder, at a non-disclosed less than "face value" amount.

I feel both the Public and some Elected officials are confused on what little hard costs the State of Alaska is truly paying, without realizing the much needed UP FRONT cash flow, (sometimes years go by before the tax credit is issued, brokered, and finally then redeemed) being spent by companies because of the Film Tax Credit program. This is not the "Free Money-No Return" program that it is being mud-balled as. It puts "real money, in the hands of "Real Alaskan Business", like mine, again, without any up-front costs to the State of AK.

I am fiscally Non-partisan, and by voting too, but on this issue you are wrong.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Butzke
Owner & Manager Talking Circle Media
100% Alaska Local & Alaskan Native Owned.
Award Winning Film & Television Production, Internet, & A/V services in Alaska Since 1984. We do it best.
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- TV Commercials
- Business Videos
- Alaska Tourism
- Marketing & Training
- Web Site Design
- DVD Production / Copies

Darrell Breese

From: Thomas Higgins <crackedchalice@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 9:25 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: HB 112

My name is Thomas Higgins, I am film worker, actor and member of IATSE Local #918 and I am here to speak in support of a stronger Alaskan economy.

Sen. Stoltz says, "the film industry does not pay state corporate taxes", that is true, that's why these incentives are given as "credits" so that other industries, that by law are required to pay corporate taxes, such as oil or mining, can buy these credits to relieve their corporate tax burdens.

The movie industry's in-state expenditures and wages are infused in Alaska's economy immediately, but the tax credits may not be sold and used to offset any corporate taxes for years. That leaves all the movie money in Alaska and working for Alaska until these credits are used.

The movie industries expenditures and wages are monies that would not come to our state otherwise, so our state's economy is more diversified and thus more stable. This money is spent through many industries throughout the state, such as supply transporters, personnel carriers, housing, car, truck, and equipment rental of all kinds, food service, (restaurants, retail & wholesale), hardware and lumber stores, paint suppliers, furnisher stores, Alaskan gifts and crafts, and more, and of course the locally owned movie support companies. These locally owned businesses will grow with time keeping more and more of the movie industry pie in Alaska.

The movie industry worker's union, IATSE, provides health insurance options to workers and their families and when used spreads the financial benefits of the Alaskan movie industry into the health care, dental and optometry communities; bringing even more money into Alaska through insurance benefit payouts.

Last years incentive changes regarding in-state-hires, guarantee even more jobs will go to Alaskan's and less to imported workers and less tax break for hiring the big money players of Hollywood.

More jobs going to Alaskan's means less hotel use for imported workers, so not only do I support the film incentive, I believe that it should be expanded to the summer time when more light would bring even more movies and more good paying jobs to Alaskans.

There has been comments that "movie jobs are not permanent" but by including summer in the incentive it would create more year around employment opportunities for the Alaskan film workers. And equally important with year around movies the Alaskan support businesses will grow all that much quicker thus cutting even more the need for outside rental houses.

The film incentive is not about supporting Hollywood its about creating good job opportunities for Alaskans. Its not about supporting stars and starlets its about growing Alaskan businesses.

Please keep the incentive alive and diversify the Alaskan economy by creating good jobs and strong local businesses.

Thank you,
Thomas Higgins

Darrell Breese

From: cypharius@gmail.com on behalf of D.K. Johnston <dk.trisevenpictures@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 11:39 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mark Neuman; 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; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Opposition to HB122
Attachments: AKF Finance Letter.pdf

To Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Filmmakers organization (Also Known as AKF), The Alaska Actors Network, and the Alaska Film Forum. I am also here representing over a dozen of my fellow filmmakers who could not be here today, but have asked me to convey their opposition to House Bill 112.

We, as a community, come before you today to ask you a simple question. Why would this legislative body, which has already casted its vote to support the Alaska Film Tax Incentive over the next decade, entertain a bill aimed at cutting down a program that has already proven itself over the last five years?

A program that that has helped create jobs, helped to diversify our state's economy, helped to promoted and develop new forms of education amongst Alaska's youth, and has helped to bring together a variety of talented artists and craftsmen to tell Alaska's stories.

A repeal of the Film Tax Credit is a step in the wrong direction. The continuation of the tax incentive program is a step in a new direction of development. A direction our community has embraced and worked vigorously to develop and maintain. Even more so after those we elected to represent our communities had given their approval, and support, to this new industry during last year's legislative session.

Millions, of dollars have already been invested in this new industry, and to turn our back on it now would be a huge mistake. If HB112 were enacted we would be turning our backs not only on a productive and on going industry, but we would be turning our backs on Alaska's talented pool of professional and aspiring storytellers.

I have provided a document to each member of the committee containing this testimony as well as personal statements from those I speak for today. These people represent a new form of pioneer here in Alaska. They represent a new generation of hard working individuals looking to use their knowledge and expertise to tell stories from the last frontier.

I hope you will listen to their stories when making your decision.

Sincerely,

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

"Everyone has a story to tell" - Alaska Filmmakers

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I have provided a document to each member of the committee containing this testimony as well as personal statements from those I speak for today. These people represent a new form of pioneer here in Alaska. They represent a new generation of hard working individuals looking to use their knowledge and expertise to tell stories from the last frontier.

I hope you will listen to their stories when making your decision.

D.K. Johnston – Assistant Director/Producer/PA/UAA Adjunct Professor

The following are testimonies I have received in response to HB112 from filmmakers either currently in the field or are unable to testify in person today on this matter.

-Michael Burn & Dean Q. Mitchell – Writers/Directors/Producers

"We are the Quake Brothers; Michael Burns and Dean Q. Mitchell. Our goal is, and has been, to make feature-length films, short films and documentaries in the state of Alaska utilizing only Alaskan talent. Without the tax incentive our goal may be ripped out from under us.

When the tax incentive initially passed we were developing a proposal for a feature-length film we had written called PROPER BINGE. We were going out on a limb; it was our first time attempting to make a commercially viable film and we really didn't have a clue as to where the money was going to come from to make it. The tax incentive seemed like it had the potential to really help us in our pursuit to gather funds.

After looking over our proposal the Alaska Film Office gave us the green light. Having a state authority recognize the fact that we had a serious project opened many doors for us.

Unfortunately, we were unable to raise the amount we needed to keep the qualification for the tax credits. Still, having pre-qualified, we were able to attract many serious filmmakers and movie enthusiasts. Professionals and amateurs volunteering their time and talents to an all Alaskan feature film, something they may not have had the chance to be a part of without the push of the tax incentive.

Throughout the summer of 2012 we worked with more than one hundred cast and crewmembers and approximately twenty-five local businesses. Each of them not only excited about the project but energized. Our crew came from as far out as Fairbanks, Girdwood and Anchorage for our twelve (plus) hour long shoots in Wasilla. If funds or a vehicle or any other filmmaking emergency came up, they chipped in without thinking twice. Some of the businesses actually closed down to accommodate our schedule. The City of Wasilla also assisted us on several occasions. Many of the filmmakers we met along the way were those that have let their skills go dormant due to the lack of a film industry in Alaska. Since our project, a lot of them have decided to continue the dream they long thought would never be fulfilled.

Working on a project like this gave us new insight on, not only how giving and respectful our fellow Alaskans are, but how vivacious they become when witnessing the growth of this new industry.

Our feature film, PROPER BINGE is nearly complete. We hope to premiere it at a top tier film festival, land a distribution deal, and we have high hopes to profit from it when all is said and done. All persons involved in PROPER BINGE are Alaska residents, which means any and all profits will go back into Alaska. The success we see from our

film will propel our next project and/or other's projects involving an all-Alaskan cast and crew. Without the film incentive in place, igniting a self-sustaining industry may not be possible.

All aspiring filmmakers in Alaska have had to ask themselves, at one time or another, "should I move to Los Angeles or New York to pursue my dream?" When truly, the question is, "Why can't I stay in Alaska to achieve my dream?" The right, well-written story has a good chance of becoming a great and successful movie no matter where it is filmed. The film incentive is reason enough for us, and for all local filmmakers to keep filming our stories in the state we love, Alaska.

Keep the dream alive."

-Jeff Aldrich – Actor

*"I have been following Bill Stoltze's HB112, and it is huge mistake for Alaska. As an Alaskan, born and raised, **I am discouraged to see our most talented actors and technicians faced with the decision to leave the state in search of work or to stay in Alaska with great uncertainty, condemned to scrape by working odd jobs in pursuit of their art.** If HB 112 is passed many of them must leave because there is no room for growth in an industry. This bill is working in the absolute wrong direction. What Alaska needs are more incentives for investment and stability that lets our future investors know that we are dedicated to cultivating the longevity of our industry. We need a comprehensive legislation that lays a foundation to encourage this growth, not just for the next legislative session but also for the next ten years. We need legislators with the courage and the faith in Alaskans to make that investment in our future."*

-Michael Bergstrom – Producer/Grip/Electrician & Co-Founder of Electric Igloo

*"I work full time in film, with a focus on motion pictures and television. This last year found me as a producer on the popular TV show Coast Guard Alaska, a show that is taking advantage of the tax incentive. **Almost all the work I have had the last two years have been on productions utilizing the tax credit in some way, and I have been able to become a homeowner in the Chugiak area and put down even more permanent roots as I begin my more long term growth of my small business. HB112 threatens large stable productions that benefit businesses, both film and non-film related.**"*

-Levi Taylor – Writer/Director/Producer & Founder of Crooked Pictures LLC

"My name is Levi A. Taylor, I've been a filmmaker all my life. In 2007 I left my day job to pursue my life long dream of making films in my home, Alaska. You see, I have a story to tell, forged in the homes and families that make Alaska what it is today. A land of diversity in personality and rich with the gold I mine, Stories.

The Alaska film incentive program represents the best of what you, our elected officials can do, help foster industry but providing opportunity. The State audit on the Film incentive program proved that it is bringing money to the State. Additionally as a filmmaker, I can tell you that the Alaska Crew has grown in size and professionalism in a way that can only be achieved with experience.

*There are many filmmakers, my self included, that are working hard to bring more work to Alaska. Telling stories about the Last Frontier that celebrate the human spirit in the harshest of places. Concurrently many Alaskans are gaining experience by working and businesses are making money providing support to an industry. **Now is the time to show our support, to grow economic opportunity and foster a new industry that celebrates humanity, even against all odds, in the quest to tell stories from generation to generation.***

-Cedar Cussins – Gecko Services LLC & Alaska Actors Network

"I am writing to say that my family does not support HB 112, an attempt to repeal the film tax incentives. My husband and I own Gecko Services LLC. Two years ago, we were a small snow removal company. Then, my husband was lucky enough to get a job working on Big Miracle.

Big Miracle changed everything for us. With the money he made renting equipment and contracting to that one film, my husband was able to pay cash for a mini-excavator, a dump truck, an equipment trailer, and a skid-steer. Those four pieces of equipment catapulted him into being self-employed year-round. Our business is now thriving! Last year, our gross receipts doubled and we hired our first employees! This year, we are on track to break the record we set last year!

Film tax incentives and the movies they bring up here are good for our economy. They diversify our economy and they give people, like my husband, and me opportunities that we would not have otherwise.

It seems silly to think that one movie could change a person's life. Big Miracle changed our lives. I strongly support anything that encourages more projects like Big Miracle to come to Alaska."

-Jim McLain – Screenwriter

"I want Alaskans to be able to tell Alaska Stories."

-Shane Reeves – Production Assistant/Coordinator/Assistant Director

"My wife and I are born and raised Alaskans. We love this state, and plan on living here for the rest of our lives. I attended college in California, but came back because this is where I want to be. I have worked in film production for the last 10 years, and

*because of the film incentive, I have been able to make a living on film and television productions made in Alaska. Over the years, I have gotten to know businesses and organizations around the state. I have become a point of contact for outside and international film companies around the state. I have had great opportunity here in my home state to learn and work with the best in the field. An opportunity that I thought would have been virtually impossible if I moved back home. I have also been able to connect small companies throughout the state with a significant amount of work needed by outside productions. These productions are filming in Alaska because of the film tax incentive program. **The work I have had due to the film incentive has allowed me to buy a starter home, obtain my business license, and my wife and I are able to stay in the place we love without having to relocate for production opportunities.** At this point in my career, I am not rich, but I am gaining the experience and training I need to continue growing. I would not be where I am today without the incentive. I am very proud to be part of an industry that seeks to capture why I love Alaska. The Film industry in Alaska supports all other industries in Alaska both big and small, telling the rest of the world how special this place is, especially to those of us who call it home. Tourism, fishing and hunting are huge industries here and the film incentive helps keep those industries alive.”*

-Tom Trainor – Production Assistant/Grip/Electrician/Writer/Director

“As a businessman born and raised in this state who works exclusively in media production, I believe that repealing the film production tax credit while the production infrastructure is in the developmental (but measurably growing) stages is a very counterproductive idea. Many local businesspeople have made huge investments to help this industry move in the right direction, and to shut it down now would be a huge step in the wrong direction - one that would diminish the opportunities for many great Alaskans to support themselves working in the challenging field that they love. Myself included.”

-Michael Collier – Cinematographer/Producer & Owner Random Acronym

“I wish I could rise to testify in person about the harmful effects HB112 would have on a burgeoning industry, thousands of residents, and the State itself. If it should pass I will follow my trade wherever it takes me - even if that means out of the State I love and have called home for two-thirds of my life. Today I work to diversify our state’s economy. It is working for thousands of regular Alaskans right now, and it will work for All Alaskans as the industry grows.”

-Daniel Lee – Camera/Steady Cam Operator/Production & Art Assistant

“I’m a lifelong Alaskan, 3rd generation.

In 2009 I became a freelance cameraman and production person and I done pretty well. Since the film incentive bill passing I’ve been able to work consistently going from

job to job, freelance, i.e. on my own. I own my car outright, I bought a house my job: freelance.

In 2012 I was hired as a Camera op on Coast Guard Alaska and worked on it for 9 solid months; a production made possible by the film incentive. This production's crew with the exception of 3 positions is all Alaskan.

I had a chance to be interviewed by the 1st Assistant Director for Big Miracle and he told me "It makes no sense to film this movie in Alaska, except for the incentive." We need Alaska to keep making sense. I worry that shutting down the incentive will force me out of state or out of work.

It seems to me we're calling something with a few rough spots that works: broken. Being a homeowner I run into these sorts of 'broken' things all the time and when I do, I fix them. Simply put: I want to work, and the incentive makes that possible to do so in Alaska."

-Christine Pomilla – Production Assistant/Coordinator/Assistant Director

*"Being able to work locally is important to me and the incentive program allows me to do that. **Working locally means I don't have to search out of state for work and potentially be away from my family for extended periods of time.** I can come home to my husband every night and not have to sleep in a strange place for days on end. I may not work often as a freelancer here in Alaska, but when I do, I love it. It's rare to be able to find a job doing what you are truly passionate about and actually enjoy going to work. For me, the film industry is that job and by taking away the incentive program, you would be taking away my opportunity to pursue what I am most passionate about. It's not about the money. It's about being able to work as much as possible in an industry that satisfies a passion of mine. I love what I do and don't want to be forced to stop doing it or to go somewhere else to find work. This industry not only brings jobs to filmmakers, but to many different local industries as well. I am proud to be a part of an industry that not only brings jobs to those who work in it, but also brings jobs to an entire community. The benefits of the incentive program are for more than just filmmakers. Let's keep it going. "*

-Simon Keelan – Grip/Electrician & Member of IATSE Local 918

"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 works. Every out-of-town crew had the same thing to say, that the film follows the incentives. The decisions on where to shoot a project often land on the least expensive location.

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."

-Tess Weaver – Production Hair-Makeup-Wardrobe/Production Assistant

"As someone who has established a successful career and business through the Alaska Film Incentive, I am in full support of our state's incentive program. A program that 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."

-Dan Redfield – Editor/Motion Graphics Designer

*"The film tax incentive has had a huge impact on not only a statewide level but also a personal level. I personally have been employed for many months because of out of state production companies coming to Alaska. It has helped me both professionally and financially. The experience I, and my colleges, have gained from past productions has helped make us more attractive to new potential productions, and helped pave the way for more work here in Alaska. The incentive has also had a huge trickle effect. **When production companies come to Alaska they spend money not only on crew but food, supplies, housing and more. Those expenses put money in the pockets of Alaskans, which in turn gets cycled through our local economy. That's why the tax incentive is not only good for me and my colleagues but good for Alaskans."***

-Joe Tapangco – Production Assistant/Assistant Director

"The Alaska Film Tax Incentive is the glue that keeps me working in, the State where I was born and raised, Alaska. Upon graduating from high school, there was no film program at the University of Alaska so I went out of State to gather an education. I was excited to come back to my home state to develop my career. Now I am disappointed to see that my dream of continuing to work here in Alaska is in jeopardy. Part of the industry is starting from the bottom. Working your way up is not a luxurious path. If the Alaska Film Tax Incentive dies, so does my future in the State where I grew up. Canada will not only steal Alaska's movies, but it's crew as well."

-Dave Fedorski – Production Sound Mixer/Owner of Artika Productions

"I've been employed on projects by a number of video/film production companies who's principal shooting was done in Alaska. One of these companies was shooting in Alaska simply because of the tax incentive while others hired me because I was an Alaskan resident who's employment offered them the benefits of the state tax incentive. These opportunities of employment have not only kept me in the State of Alaska but have brought me back a number of times after attempting to find employment else where. In my mind this has legitimized the opportunities Alaska can provide for me as a business owner and employee working in the video production industry."

*Employment on productions encouraged by the tax incentive offers Alaskan's not only the chance to earn money but to receive a video/film education most likely exceeding the ones offered by local universities. **The excitement sparked by more video and film productions being shot in Alaska has begun to, and will continue to, encourage aspiring video and film makers to reside and work in this state as opposed to searching elsewhere for education and employment.** The most obvious but also valuable result of this enthusiasm has been a dramatic increase in independently and locally produced video projects. These collaborative and ambition efforts by talented locals represent the groundwork for a legitimate video and film industry in the state of Alaska. Repealing the tax incentive at such an early stage in the growth of such a promising industry would be short sighted when considering the long-term losses for the Alaskan economy. I would be disappointed for the state of Alaska to see some of it's more passionate, ambitious and talented individuals leaving in search of locations which offered them better opportunities."*

-Bradford Jackson – Actor/SAG Member & Founder of Rukus Productions

"I am a proud member of the Screen Actors Guild. Ever since I was young boy I had dreams of becoming an actor and making movies. Growing up in a poor family with little money, and my father serving his country away from home quite often, sometimes that dream seemed more than distant. I was unable to attend acting classes due to money needs for our family until I was 18, when I entered college. It was there I learned everything about acting on stage and most importantly to me, in front of a camera! I was seeking out everything I could for more Film, for this was my calling, my dream, and my passion. But living here in Alaska I wasn't sure I would find much. To my ultimate surprise, I found not one, not a few people, not a dozen, but well over a hundred people in Anchorage, Alaska alone who all had the same dream and passion as I did! To make Films!!! Since then I have had the honor to be in such films as 'Christmas with a Capitol C', 'The Frozen Ground' (with Nicolas Cage), and 'Wildlike', I received my Screen Actors Guild card and my dream seems to be getting closer and closer everyday. I have the production companies and crews that came up to Alaska to film their movies to thank, but most importantly I have the Alaskan Film Industry and all of it's independent hard working, passionate, loving, kind-caring, talented, rockstar filmmakers to truly thank! They made me who I am today, and they have set in stone my dreams in my heart that will never die. You have more than a dozen Alaskan independent production companies, over two hundred independent actors and growing, you have writers, producers, editors, special F/X teams, and directors all willing to bend over backwards to make movies here in Alaska. This city is being run by filmmakers who are working a 9-5 job so they can have money to make movies in the evening...don't take that away from them. Long live the Film Industry in Alaska!"

-Erin Lindsay King – Actor/Production Assistant/Production Coordinator

"I was born and raised in Anchorage, left for college, then moved to New York City. When I moved back to Anchorage in 2010 I had no idea the opportunities that were in store for me in the film industry in Alaska. With the Alaska Film Tax Incentive I have been able to work production on 3 feature films, star as an actor and extra in various film productions, and acquire my Screen Actors Guild membership, something that actors in Los Angeles struggle towards for years. Without the tax incentive, none of this would have been possible. To kill this bill not only kills thousands of jobs and substantial economic growth, it kills the way of life for a community of incredibly talented artists. Lets continue to build what we started, and support our local art community... we have so many reasons to believe in them."

Darrell Breese

From: Brian Wescott <alaskawescott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: oppose HB 112

Dear Representative Stoltze,

I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 112. It would be a fatal disaster for a vital new sector of the economy in Alaska.

Cordially,

Brian Wescott
Fairbanks

Darrell Breese

From: Tom Skore <aftts@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: House Bill 112

Dear Representative Stoltze: I have been a resident of Eagle River for 23 years and have also been a faculty member of the Theatre & Dance Department at UAA for that same period. In fact, I have been chairing that department for the past 11 years. Throughout those years I have been training students with varying interests in theatre, especially in performance, and it has always saddened me that most of those dedicated folks had to eventually leave the state to make a living in their chosen field. As you can well imagine it is difficult to work with a person as a performing artist without getting to know them quite well on a personal level. In many other cities and states while they might go to other places for employment there is usually the outside chance that they might return and contribute their talents to the local community. In Alaska, however, that is a much less likely scenario because there is no professional theatre to draw them. Once they are gone, they are usually gone for good.

I know many young people who have lived their entire lives in Alaska, who want to be artists, and would love to stay here. But that option has not been available. Yes there are people that I have trained who are still here, but they make their living doing other things in large part, and the theatre that they do is an avocation which pays little or nothing. They are caught in a conundrum, loving theatre, loving Alaska, but with little in the way of employment opportunities in the arts.

I spend many weekends viewing plays that my current students, as well as past students, are doing all over Anchorage. There is such a desire to work; such an energy to perform. With the tax incentives for the film industry at last there was an outlet for all this energy. Having worked on the sets for Big Miracle and The Frozen Ground it was gratifying to see so many former students working on the sets as production assistants, extras, wardrobe people, even casting assistants. In a scene I shot with Nick Cage I actually worked with two of my students, one with a small speaking role, and one as a background player. That was an incredible opportunity for me as a teacher.

I do not mention these things to toot my own horn, but to alert you to something wonderful going on that could potentially die should this House Bill 112 be passed. In the end we will lose far more than the film industry. We will lose many of our most creative, bright, energetic, and inspired children. We will give them to other states because we have not encouraged an industry that would have kept them in Alaska, and that would indeed be a shame. This industry can grow into something wonderful for Alaska, but it needs to be given time and support.

I thank you for your time, and for considering my perspective in this issue.

Sincerely,
Tom Skore, Chair
UAA, Theatre & Dance

Darrell Breese

From: James Robinson <jkrobinson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 4:38 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 112

Hello,

As you well know it is incredibly difficult to build up or plan a business if the rules are in a constant flux. Please do not push HB 112 through.

Thank You

Jim Robinson

Darrell Breese

From: fred potts <fredpottsnz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 5:15 PM
To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rep. Bill Stoltze; Daniel George
Subject: House Bill 112

As a filmmaker I think Alaska is a new frontier for film making and those that are struggling to stay in this field should get a fighting chance to continue in this field.

film making gives young people a chance to act and also help them through drama classes in school giving them a future they can look forward towards from acting, singing, plays etc .

Art comes in many forms from writing, makeup, wardrobe and acting. One voice is never enough but many voices can help.

Thanks for your time,

Fred Potts

Darrell Breese

From: Susan Weston <susan@susancanthy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 6:21 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 112

I encourage you to vote AGAINST HB112. Alaska is an incredible place and filmmakers should be encouraged to utilize it. It's an industry with little downside and the upside of sharing our wonderful state with others.

Thank you.

Darrell Breese

From: Janet Shafsky <impressbyj@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 8:34 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Hello Bill

Hello Bill,

My name is Janet Shafsky, I am a Professional Makeup Artist, Licensed Esthetician, and small business owner in the State of Alaska.

I have worked in film, video and print for over 35 years. I have been in Alaska since 1979. My Grandfather was one of our first Territorial Judges in Ketchikan in 1917 and my Mother was born here.

I believe Alaska has many stories to tell. Most of us came to Alaska seeking a new life or a new dream. When I first moved up here with my husband in April of 1979 (my husband was raised in Anchorage) I remember people back home in California would ask me what language do they speak in Alaska? Do people still live in igloos and mush dogs to work? Well we have come a long way since those days. But the lure of Alaska is still here for many dreamers to imagine.

I personally believe that our HB 112 needs to continue so that we can give responsible film makers a chance to showcase our beautiful state.

Over the past 34 years I have seen us go from silly Pizza commercials to beautiful cinematography showing the beauty of our vast state.

I have been on locations that most people could only see in National Geographic.

I personally have been in contact with Alaskan Screenwriters who are on the brink of turning award winning novels into film.

HB 112 is not just for the silly reality shows which don't support a lot of Alaskans but it is for the beautiful screen play's that are on the peak of becoming a film.

I love our State and love showing it off.

I believe Alaska is ready to add another major industry. I also personally know that oil and film can work together well.

My husband helped build the pipeline and has worked in the oil industry his entire life.

My daughter has followed in my footsteps and has become a Licensed Hairdresser with the State of Alaska. At age 19 she was the youngest Key hairdresser ever. She and I worked together as Key Makeup and Key Hair in the set of "Beyond".

I have also worked on a Alaskan movie called Kusah Hakwaan.

It was a delightful story of the legend of the mosquito as told by a Tlingit Storyteller written, produced and directed by an Alaskan with all Alaskan Native Actors and a full Alaskan crew. All of us who worked on this production were very proud of our accomplishment. Unfortunately, it was a very low budget film. If Sean Morris would have had these tax incentives back in 1999 I imagine his movie could have been a huge success. Instead he left Alaska to work in LA.

Please reconsider your view on this HB112 so Alaskans have the chance to make more Alaskan films. We have a lot of talent in this state striving to film great films about our state in our state. HB112 will allow us to show the real Alaska and in turn help to grow our economy by creating more jobs for young writers, actors, producers, directors, camera crews, hotels, car rentals, restaurants and yes even more Makeup Artists and Hair dressers to live the Alaskan dream. This bill gives young people in Alaska a reason to want to stay in our state.

My cry for help is not just for selfish reasons to pad my own pocket but to give young high school students another option for their future.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Janet S Shafsky

Jillian S Shafsky

Sent from my iPhone

Darrell Breese

From: john saunders <johnsaunders54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 2:44 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sen. Hollis French; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Pending legislation

I do not support HB112 (the Repealing of the Film Tax Credit Program).

**Respectfully,
John Saunders
3326 W. 30th Ave.
Anch., Ak. 99517**

Darrell Breese

From: Julie Robinson <jm_robinson05@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:22 PM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: NO on HB112

Dear Representative Stoltz,

As Alaskan for over 40 years, and a small business owner for 27 years, when I give my word and make a commitment, I keep it, and I expect my elected government officials to hold that same standard. The Film Tax Credit Program is a commitment that was made to the citizens of Alaska and all film makers that allows them to budget and plan for filming in Alaska. HB112 pulls the carpet out from under people that have in good faith invested in Alaska because of the Film Tax Incentive. To repeal the Tax Incentive is bad business, against my values as an Alaskan and a citizen, and frankly just wrong. I encourage you to vote No on HB112.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Robinson, DDS

Darrell Breese

From: Richard Geiger <richard@wheelgoodfood.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 7:26 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: HB112 (the Repealing of the Film Tax Credit Program)

Rep. Stoltze,

I do not support HB112 which is repealing the Film Tax Program. My wife Kathy Robinson and I made over a \$400,000 investment in a food truck business based on the Film Tax Credit Program. We own Wheel Good Food, LLC and part of the business is feature film catering and feature film craft services. Please overturn HB 112 and support small business.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Richard Geiger
Wheel Good Food, LLC
www.wheelgoodfood.com
Phone: 907-242-0347



Darrell Breese

From: David Nielson <dlnielson@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 11:38 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Mike Chenault
Subject: Vote no on HB112

March 28, 2013

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB112 Repeal Film Production Tax Credits

Dear Representative Stoltze:

I am writing you as a concerned Alaskan who has lived in Anchorage for 27 years as a private business owner. When it comes to incentives that entice new industries to come and do business in Alaska, sometimes it takes time for the infrastructure that supports that industry to develop. There is no way this can be accomplished in the short time this film bill has been allowed to work! Once a film industry infrastructure is allowed to develop here in Alaska, more and more money and resources will stay here in Alaska! What industry is going to come and invest resources in Alaska if they can't count on consistent rules of engagement? Alaska should NOT get the reputation for promising something only to renege on it later. That is a terrible message to send to new industries interested in doing business in Alaska and very short sighted. Please vote no on HB 112.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nielson DDS
6222 W Dimond Blvd
Anchorage AK, 99502

Darrell Breese

From: David Nielson <dlnielson@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 11:44 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: No on HB 112

March 28, 2013

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB112 Repeal Film Production Tax Credits

Dear Representative Stoltze:

I am writing you as a concerned Alaskan who has lived in Anchorage for 27 years as a private business owner. When it comes to incentives that entice new industries to come and do business in Alaska, sometimes it takes time for the infrastructure that supports that industry to develop. There is no way this can be accomplished in the short time this film bill has been allowed to work! Once a film industry infrastructure is allowed to develop here in Alaska, more and more money and resources will stay here in Alaska! What industry is going to come and invest resources in Alaska if they can't count on consistent rules of engagement? Alaska should NOT get the reputation for promising something only to renege on it later. That is a terrible message to send to new industries interested in doing business in Alaska and very short sighted. Please vote no on HB 112.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nielson DDS
6222 W Dimond Blvd
Anchorage AK, 99502

Darrell Breese

From: David Nielson <dlnielson@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 11:47 AM
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze
Cc: Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: No on HB 112

March 28, 2013

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB112 Repeal Film Production Tax Credits

Dear Representative Stoltze:

I am writing you as a concerned Alaskan who has lived in Anchorage for 27 years as a private business owner. When it comes to incentives that entice new industries to come and do business in Alaska, sometimes it takes time for the infrastructure that supports that industry to develop. There is no way this can be accomplished in the short time this film bill has been allowed to work! Once a film industry infrastructure is allowed to develop here in Alaska, more and more money and resources will stay here in Alaska! What industry is going to come and invest resources in Alaska if they can't count on consistent rules of engagement? Alaska should NOT get the reputation for promising something only to renege on it later. That is a terrible message to send to new industries interested in doing business in Alaska and very short sighted. Please vote no on HB 112.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nielson DDS
6222 W Dimond Blvd
Anchorage AK, 99502



March 27, 2013

RE: Opposition to HB112 as written

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing in opposition to HB112 on behalf of Piksik, LLC, a film production services company. By eliminating the Film Tax Credit Incentive Program this bill will essentially stop future growth, fail to maintain any already realized gains in infrastructure investment and significantly reduce employment opportunities for a developing workforce.

Alaska's incentive program is globally competitive but we need fiscal stability. This economic incentive is the driver for infrastructure development, crew training and job growth. When a commitment is made by the legislature, as was the case in 2008 and again long term last session, the private sector moved forward and invested millions of dollars. As we continue to build our workforce these projects will hire more Alaskans equating to more dollars circulating in Alaska's economy, less dollars going outside and a reduction in tax credit dollars required in developing a full time equivalent job (FTE).

The difference between the current program and what we will see through Rep. Costello's program beginning July 1, 2013 is significant. Last sessions House Finance Sub-Committee vetted the current program and recommended to the full House Finance committee a more Alaska centric incentive program that eventually passed with the following key changes and notes....

- Non-resident above the line workers such as Producers, Directors, Actors and Screenwriters incentive reduced from 30% to 5%.
- Resident hire increased from 10% to 20%
- A Cabinet level review of all projects to ensure best interest of the state and the people of Alaska. This review will occur in the pre-qualification phase as well as the final application phase.
- Verification of Alaska expenditures at a 99% sampling by a third party, state certified CPA. This sampling percentage is more than any other state.



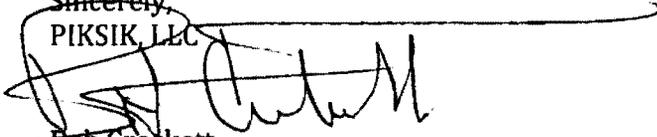
- Production must submit a non-refundable application fee between \$200 and \$5000.
- Taxes and fees are collected through application fees, registration fees, business license fees, rental car taxes and hotel bed taxes.
- Productions must spend all dollars in qualified spend and prove to the state that the film they originally pre-qualified for remains the same when applying for final application. There's a time value of money when those dollars circulate through the economy multiple times.
- Tax relief to Alaska business through the purchase of a tax credit, thereby realizing additional capital to invest in equipment, infrastructure and jobs. To date, industries that have purchased tax credits are Mining, Tourism, Fishing, Banking and Retail.
- A 2012 Legislative Audit by Northern Economics demonstrates that the Alaska Film Production Incentive Program generated an estimated \$2 in economic output for every \$1 in tax credits.

Our state needs additional ways to help diversify the economy. Other industries and Federal dollar contributions are in decline leaving us with an opportunity to explore other ways to continue growing Alaska's economy. The Film Industry is off to a good start but needs time to develop.

Lets continue exploring and give this new program the opportunity to create jobs, stimulate business and contribute to Alaska's economic health.

Thank you for taking the time to address this important issue....

Sincerely,
PIKSİK, LLC



Bob Crockett
General Manager
907-265-3705 Direct
907-223-3740 Mobile



March 22, 2013

Honorable Bill Stoltze
Co-chair House Finance Committee
State Capitol Rm. 515
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

Re: HB112-repealing the AK Film Production Tax Credit

Dear Representative Stoltze,

As CEO of Evergreen Films, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 112 in its current form.

Evergreen Films is an Alaska-based film company with state-of-the art 3-D production studios in both Anchorage and Los Angeles. Our company is currently in postproduction on our first feature-length film, WALKING WITH DINOSAUERS 3-D, which has been produced with our partners, BBC Earth. This film, which has been over 2 years in the making, was shot in Alaska and New Zealand and will be the major holiday release by 20th Century Fox in December.

My background is in the software business. In 1981, after graduating from the US Air Force Academy and attending Stanford University on a National Science Foundation Fellowship, I created Rational Software. My partner and I grew this company to over 4000 employees and \$800M+ in revenue prior to its acquisition by IMB in 2003. I came to Alaska from IBM in 2005, built a post production facility and produced ICY KILLERS-SECRETS OF AK SALMON SHARKS for National Geographic. I also developed the worlds first Marine Cineflex gimbal, the most advanced 5-axis camera stabilization system available for shooting on watercraft today.

In 2011, Evergreen Films borrowed money from a commercial Alaskan lender, purchased property and a building in South Anchorage and began major renovations to create a film production facility with a smart stage and green screen capabilities. We have currently invested over \$6 million dollars in this facility alone and have worked with over 35 Alaskan vendors in the Anchorage area. The production offices are finished and have been leased to a new film services company, Piksik, which is a subsidiary of our partner, NANA; the 24-seat screening room is completed and in use; and the preparations needed prior to the installation of the green screen/smart stage are done.

7941 Sandlewood Place
Anchorage, AK 99507
P: (907) 344-1700
F: (907) 276-3456

Our plans call for the final construction of the smart stage in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2013. To facilitate our future growth and to attract other film productions to Alaska, we have also developed a strategy for construction of additional sound stages on our property. Sound stages and production facilities are a critical infrastructure component needed to guarantee the success of this industry in our state.

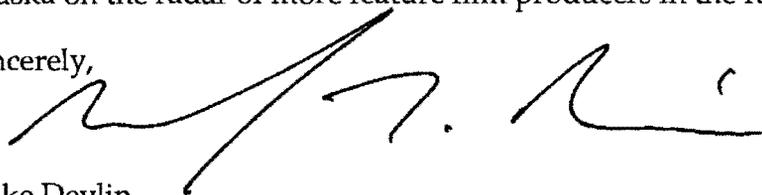
None of these developments and investments are included under the Film Production Tax Credit Program. Although we are poised for additional capital construction in Anchorage, we are unwilling to borrow and commit any future funds until we know that the film industry really does have a secure future in Alaska. Producers do not like uncertainty, and have many locations to choose from both in the US and internationally, when deciding where their shooting budgets will stretch the farthest. Alaska made a commitment last year with the passage of the new program with only two legislators voting against it. The legislature now should stand behind that commitment.

It has taken Alaska a little time to get their program up and running smoothly and producers are exploring the possibility of shooting here. But the uncertainty caused by this new legislation has already had an impact in the film industry. Everyone is playing a waiting game. Many projects are based on funding availability and scheduling which won't allow producers the option to wait very long to see what happens in here.

Evergreen Films has already committed to Alaska. But we are also waiting to see whether we will be making additional infrastructure investments in Alaska or putting our facilities in Anchorage up for sale. It takes time to build a successful business. I know that, as I started a business which created thousands of jobs. And the film industry does create jobs. But sometimes a new start-up businesses needs a little financial help to really get going and to become strong and successful. And that's just what the current Film Production Tax Credit program does.

I would ask that you and your committee please consider amending this legislation to address your valid concerns without damaging this fledgling industry. The positive financial impact of this new economic development is just being felt in Alaska. The real effort behind the Alaska-centric program developed by the legislature last year, was to make a successful film industry here about economic activity and expansion, local jobs and work for local businesses. Please help it develop as envisioned and it will put Alaska on the radar of more feature film producers in the future.

Sincerely,



Mike Devlin
CEO
Evergreen Films, Inc.