

Dear Senator Costello,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I realize that your time is very valuable.

I'm Michael Downing, a senior at Homer High School. I am asking you to vote against Senate Bill 39 to repeal the film production tax credit. I realize that our state's income has suffered with the recent decrease in oil prices, but this bill will hurt the economy even more. By eliminating the tax credit, our growing film industry will come to a sudden stop, destroying any chance of creating new Alaska-based film companies and forcing the new generation of Alaskan film enthusiasts to leave our amazing state. I am an aspiring film maker, who is only a few short months from graduating high school, and leaving for college, probably in California. I am going to California, because I know that there the film industry is strong and it saddens me that I have to leave my home in beautiful Alaska in order to train for a successful career. I hope to be able to return home and achieve that success in the breathtaking environment of Alaska and share the magnificence of our home through film and television.

In the past six years since the introduction of the tax credit 18 new TV series have been created in Alaska proving that these reality shows have clearly established a large audience that is fascinated by the lifestyle (regardless if they are obviously staged and inaccurate portrayals of everyday life). In the past few years, two new popular TV dramas, *The Americans* and *Allegiance*, have gained popularity for their plots of Russian spies in the United States due to Russia's aggressive activity in neighboring countries. If our new Cold War continues, this genre is sure to grow in popularity making Alaska the go-to location. This is already happening with the film being produced and filmed in Whittier this summer. What an impact on that community's economy and for the many Alaskans who are working on the film. We have suffered the embarrassment over the years of "Alaskan" film like *The Grey* with Liam Neeson shot in Canada (and grossing \$50 million).

Alaska has world-wide appeal and our new film industry is just getting started. The film production tax credit is pro-business and an investment that will far exceed the loss of income from a higher tax. Maybe I will be able to afford filming a major motion picture here one day.

Michael Downing

Homer, Alaska