

Dear Senator Mia Costello,

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my letter. Your time is much appreciated. I am a film student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and I am in my first year of college. When I heard about the issues going on with Alaska's state tax incentives and how it is affecting the film industry and programs here in Alaska, my heart broke.

Since my senior year of high school I have committed and dedicated my future career to the film industry. My goal is to direct and write. I desire to create films that impact people through social relevance. I hope to allow people to visually gain new perspectives and ideals on life. Besides the amount of inspiration and thoughtful perspectives that film gives us, it also creates jobs in Alaska.

I worked on my first professional film set at the age of 17, a week after I graduated from West Valley High School in Fairbanks, AK. I have never heard of another young person my age being able to work on a film set anywhere else, other than Alaska, as a respected and equal crewmember. This is the opportunity that only the Alaskan film industry has provided me with. Not only have I received crew jobs within the last year, I have also received acting gigs. Not only does this aide me in paying for college, it also allows me to work with people from different background and cultures, helping me to appreciate the diversity of Alaska. These opportunities are also helping me to build my resume in college rather than waiting till I graduate to start working. The film industry here in Alaska is my future. Without the film industry here in Alaska, many people will be without jobs. Without film, it is difficult to educate people on the unique aspects and stories of Alaska on a global scale. Please support the film industry and programs here in Alaska as you gather to discuss the tax incentives tomorrow. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Michelle