



February 9, 2011

The Honorable Johnny Ellis
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801

REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT

TEL 907.265.2670

FAX 907.265.2450

Re: Senate Bill 23 – Alaska Film Production Incentive Program Extension

Dear Senator Ellis:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) supports Senate Bill 23, which extends the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. During 2010, ARRC worked with the Alaska Film Office by offering ARRC property on very short notice because the initial filming site for the film "Everybody Loves Whales" fell through. Unless a new site was found, the filming would have been moved to Canada.

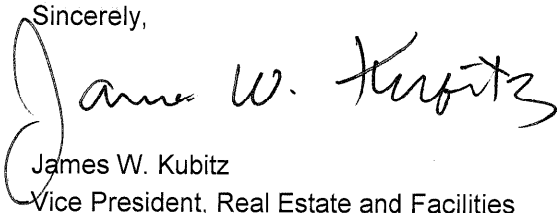
The film company not only used ARRC property for the primary "Barrow" scene, which involved extensive development and construction, it also used our newly renovated Historic Freight Shed for several film sets, feeding the crew, make-up and wardrobe. ARRC's property provided a perfect venue for this film. Numerous Alaskans were put to work in the construction activity in addition to the actors. Local workers were involved in building sets, providing equipment rentals, transportation and meals. Local businesses benefited from the increased level of dollars spent in the community. It was a group effort and everyone worked hard to welcome the film industry. I believe this effort helped to put Alaska on the map as a state that has the ability to support the film industry.

During the same period, the filming of "Ghost Visions" used ARRC property for a portion of a feature film. This film also used the property of an ARRC tenant, where several segments of the movie were filmed.

Film and television projects offer invaluable marketing and promotion for Alaska tourism, products and businesses. Continuing and extending this program offers a clear signal to the multi-billion dollar film and television industry that Alaska is open for business.

For all of these reasons, ARRC fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working to develop a new industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,


James W. Kubitz
Vice President, Real Estate and Facilities