



April 6, 2011

Representative Kurt Olson
Chairman, House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 24
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: SB 23 relating to the extension of the film production tax credits and transferrable tax credits

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Evergreen Films, I would like to add our support for passage of SB 23. Evergreen Films is an Alaska-based film company with state-of-the art 3D production studios in both Anchorage and Los Angeles. We are focused on producing content that combines *AVATAR*-quality technological innovation with Pixar-quality storytelling. Evergreen is currently in pre-production on the feature film *WALKING WITH DINOSAURS 3-D*, a co-production with BBC Earth. We are shooting exteriors in Alaska this summer, with the film slated for worldwide release in 2013 by Twentieth Century Fox, a global leader in film marketing and distribution.

The extension of the current film incentives will be a primary factor as Evergreen Films and our Alaska business partners decide whether to proceed with further private infrastructure investments in the film industry. This legislation will also continue to attract other producers, and sends a strong message to local businesses and investors that a huge opportunity exists for growth in Alaska, as this new film industry is successfully developed for the long-term.

The economic impact and jobs experienced in Alaska with the small studio production, *EVERYBODY LOVES WHALES* (direct, indirect and induced spending was estimated at \$16.5 million), is just the beginning of what could be a successful new business platform for Alaska. Signs of this are already appearing throughout the state. The Board of Regents recently approved a Bachelor of Arts Degree program in film at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Financial institutions in Alaska are exploring how to become involved in supporting the film industry. Alaska corporations, such as NANA Development Corporation, are developing film services companies. This June, high school students from the Lower Kuskokwim School District will be participating in a work-study program revolving around filmmaking. And most importantly, producers are currently scouting locations in Alaska for a number of future projects.

The positive message of stability created by the long-term extension and funding for the film incentive and tax credits, cannot be overstated in an industry where development, finance packaging, production and distribution of a film project can often take many years. Alaska is finally on film producer's radar and we are successfully competing with other film-friendly states. Passage of this pro-business legislation, which supports and fosters the new, non-resource based film industry, sends the message that our state is in this for the long haul.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Devlin", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Devlin, CEO

Cc: House Labor and Committee Members

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