

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Edward S. Itta, Mayor

March 30, 2011



Senator Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Ellis:

I support SB 23, the extension of the Alaska Film Incentive Program. The Film Production Incentive Program was instituted only a couple of years ago and seems to be quite a success story, both in terms of job creation and diversification of our economy.

It was pretty exciting for me to see the set for "Everybody Loves Whales" because it looked like downtown Barrow. I found I knew some of the actors and extras and got a chance to appreciate the extra business generated for many companies in Anchorage area. We noticed quite a bit of activity on the North Slope too. There were a couple of dozen people involved in several days of filming and they stayed at our hotels, had their meals at our restaurants and rented vehicles for ground transportation. In short, the existing program created lots of enthusiasm and opportunities for a number of people and businesses.

I believe there are lots of good Alaska stories out there, apparent interest from the industry in telling those stories and also in creating those films here. Filming in Alaska is expensive and to be truly successful in the longer term more infrastructure will need to be developed. I support the program and wish you the best of luck in extending the program for another ten years.

Sincerely,

Edward S. Itta
Mayor