



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

February 14, 2011

Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol, Rm. 119
Juneau, AK 99801

SUPPORT OF SB 23: Alaska Film Incentive Program Extension

Dear Senator Ellis,

At its recent monthly meeting, the Board of Directors of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) voted its support in favor of SB 23 to extend the Alaska Film Incentive Program. The Board feels that this program has offered many economic benefits to the residents of Alaska, and it has the potential to do more.

With estimates ranging from \$2-3 delivered to local economies for every dollar spent by the film industry, that represents a good return on investment for Alaskans, especially in some of the more rural and economically challenged areas of the state.

We hope to see the level of film activity increase in Alaska, and SWAMC is heartened that a portion of the tax credit program is geared toward spurring more economic development in our rural areas. We hope the bill sponsors and those within the Alaska Film Office will continue to encourage more filming and production in rural Alaska, where our scenery is unmatched.

SWAMC's Board of Directors feel that an extension of the program may develop the certainty and help spur the necessary infrastructure for the film industry to continue to prosper in the state. We must remember, however, that this program is about more than films, and several types of productions qualify for the incentive that could bring more dollars into all areas of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,
SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Varner".

Andy Varner
Executive Director