



Brian Rogers, Chancellor
(907) 474-7112
(907) 474-6725 fax
uaf.chancellor@alaska.edu
www.uaf.edu

Bob Shefchik, Executive Officer
(907) 474-7489
(907) 474-7475 fax
rrshefchik@alaska.edu

Office of the Chancellor

320 Signers' Hall, P.O. Box 757500, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7500

March 16, 2011

Representative Bob Herron
Representative Chris Tuck
Senator Johnny Ellis
Members of the Interior Delegation
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Delivered via electronically

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Preparing Alaskans for Alaska jobs; that is a big part of what we do at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and why we support expanding the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program. UAF has just added a film major to our list of bachelor degrees and we are committed to preparing our students for a growing film industry in Alaska. Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67 will help diversify Alaska's economy and UAF is excited to be a part of training the people who help make that happen.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks has actively been working with film industry partners long before the tax-incentive program was established to broaden the skills of our students and provide opportunities for on-the-job training. We have supplied talent, crew, logistical support, and even equipment for Discovery Channel, Sundance Institute, Universal Pictures, CNN, the History Channel, BBC, and dozens of smaller film production companies from all over the world.

Our students have worked with industry from television commercials to feature films. Since the establishment of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive Program, the number of these opportunities has dramatically risen. One of the impetuses for the new film major is to help prepare homegrown talent for an industry that is expanding here.


These incentives have changed the way filming decisions are made. Alaska faces aggressive and long established film incentives from Canada and 45 other states. They understand the economic benefits that this industry can bring to their businesses and communities.

The National Science Foundation has funded UAF Film students for work with the International Polar Year, recognized by the Legislature for their broadcasts from Iraq as embedded journalists, and have been cast in roles as actors from Barrow to Anchorage. We have been proud partners and associates in two films screened at Sundance, and others that have been seen in International Film Festivals the world over. Enrollment in UAF Film Courses has grown 60% in the past four years, and continues to grow.

We support the extension of the Alaska Film Production Tax Incentive program for ten years with \$100 million available in incentives during the first five years and \$100 million in incentives for the final five years. Senate Bill 23 and House Bill 67 will provide a clear signal that offers Alaska businesses the opportunity to better plan for and capitalize on Alaska's newest multi-million dollar industry.

For all of these reasons, UAF fully supports the Film Credit Tax Credit Bill and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for working towards a more prosperous Alaska.

Sincerely,



Brian Rogers