



April 17, 2014

Sent via electronic mail

Alaska State Senators

Juneau, Alaska

Re: House Bill 306

Dear Senators:

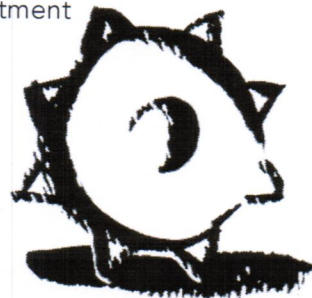
My name is Lauren Wilkinson Trawver and I am the Casting Director of SprocketHeads, LLC, Alaska's premier film, television and commercial production company. I am writing regarding your House Bill 306. If this Bill passes, it will negatively affect many hard working Alaskans as well as many Alaskan owned businesses. Alaska will miss out on millions and millions of dollars in revenue, not just to the Alaska based film industry but to the hospitality and tourism industries as well. But more specifically, this would affect my family and I directly.

My job was created and is directly dependent upon the fact that the Alaska Film Tax Incentive Program is in place. If this bill goes into effect, my job security becomes uncertain. I know that it would be very difficult for my employers to let me go, but I also know that without the incentive program, we will not have the work coming in to justify keeping me employed.

Last year I cast an international commercial for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. I cast 35 Alaskans to be a part of this project. Over 75 Alaskans worked as crew and talent on this commercial, a commercial that would not have come to Alaska without the tax incentive. Our client, who were incredibly impressed by the state of Alaska, but more importantly by the people of Alaska, was so happy that they came back and we just finished another project for them. This time the cast and crew was made up of 100% Alaskans thanks to the Film Incentive Program. These clients plan to return for future projects but without the incentive program, they will not be able to come back.

I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years. I graduated from Alaska Pacific University. My son was born at Providence Hospital. This is my home and where I have chosen to live and to raise my child. I care deeply about the future of the state of Alaska for myself and for my family. This film tax incentive program is an investment in that future and it is literally an investment in my future, in my ability to care for my family.

I had the opportunity to watch the House Finance Committee meeting several weeks ago where HB 306 was being discussed. During that meeting Mr. Anderson was asked why non-sunset oil and gas tax credits were not included under the Department of Revenue Tax Credit



Programs in Bill 306. His answer had to do with the fact that those tax credits were for oil and gas exploration and exploration can take a very long time. I bring this up because I think it is important to note that making a movie is a lot like exploration and it can take a long time as well. From the first call we get from an outside production company or studio looking for information, to the time a production comes to Alaska for the first scout – to the moment that production sets up their Alaska offices could be anywhere from 1 to 10 years.

My hope is that you will see the value in laying the groundwork, building the infrastructure, and supporting this burgeoning industry in our great state of Alaska as you did a couple of years ago when you voted to extend the program to 2023. The benefits to the local film industry, to the travel, tourism and hospitality industries and to Alaskans if this program is given a real chance, are immeasurable.

I urge you to remove the Alaska Film Production Tax Credit Program from HB306. It does not belong there. Alaskans were given the promise of a chance to make this industry grow and I ask you to stand by that promise.

Sincerely,



Lauren Wilkinson Trawver

