



March 24, 2015

Senator Anna MacKinnon
Alaska State Legislature
Re: SB 39

Thank You Senator MacKinnon for your considerations and holding public testimony regarding SB 39.

My name is Frank Flavin Photographer / Location Scout and resident of Alaska for over 45 years.

Flavin Photography has been in business since 1975 so have seen what the film industry can add to the Alaskan economy and opportunity for economic diversification.

There is no doubt that there are many US states and Canada that are taking advantage of Film Incentive Programs and are doing quite well to provide film related jobs and business for many support vendors. Perhaps easier because they have a Tax base and offer Tax Free incentives ?

I have testified for the Alaska Incentive Program for over 10 years and based my comments on factual information primarily from our Canadian neighbors specifically BC who have been doing this for over 40 years. The film industry in BC is now an economic machine. It has not been always easy for BC either. There was a time, about 10 years ago, when BC was considering discontinuing their program as well. They held on, made some changes primarily by adding infrastructure and training for Canadians thus keeping more monies at home.

Report from Creative BC's Annual Report April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Creative BC Tax Credit investment \$ 366,321,689

Received from productions \$1,081,551,737

This was from 129 projects.

Moreover as Creative BC's film industry has grown so has their tourism because of awareness of Beautiful BC.

As you can see the film and related industries are an economic incentive.

Perhaps the film production tax credit right now is bad timing for Alaska with our revenue shortfalls ?

As I mentioned in my testimony this morning there will be smaller projects that will come to Alaska because of our unique settings without an incentive program but not the money makers.

In closing it is all important that our film office maintain a knowledgeable staff to answer questions about what Alaska has to offer and maintain the available crew list for future productions.

Thank you for your time, considerations and service to our great state.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Flavin