

Greetings Taxation Committee.

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2.16.05
LID 584

My name is Troy Bertelsen, I grew up in Helena, graduated from Helena High in 1978 and had always wanted to work in the film business. In 1996 another fellow Montanan, Steve Reeves who played Hercules in the movies in the 60's, urged me to come to LA and become an actor. While living and working in LA, I learned of other film work, behind the camera, helping to make TV commercials which became the best way to support my acting 'habit'. After 2 years of LA, I had come to the conclusion that while working in LA was the best place for the film business, it was the worst place to live, and when my woman and I found out that we had our first child on the way, we packed it up and moved back to Montana.

Surprisingly enough my biggest 'breaks' would come after returning to Montana! I was cast as the lead in a Kellogg's commercial for Germany that would take me to Chile to shoot (three hours after my daughter was born), and the following summer I would work as a 2nd Assistant Director (2nd AD) my first big national commercial. The 2nd AD job is the person in charge of the 'talent' (actors) which got better when they cast my wife and six-month old daughter as 'principle talent'. My daughter Malia who is hear with me today has a mutual fund set up from her earnings acting at 6 months old and another job when she was 2 years old.

Winter of 2001 I acted in my first industrial video for the company that was laying the fiber optic cables across Montana and landed my Screen Actors Guild card. So now, I am a 'card carrying' actor (member of the union)...and have moved up to 1st Assistant Director, though I still have 65 more days of work as an "AD" before I can join the Directors Guild of America (there are 600 work days required) it could take years at the current rate film jobs are coming to Montana.

Other Film work is listed on my resume which is attached, includes a couple of jobs that I got to work with my oldest son Jake Bertelsen, who lives in Whitefish. Right after his high school, I got him on a couple of jobs with me where he was able to work and earn \$200-\$250/day with all expenses paid for food and lodging. Some of you on this committee remember like I do the incredible feeling of 'Family' while toiling together on the Family Farm, or running the Family Business. I'm hear to tell you it is the same in the Film Business when your favorite commercial Director in the world walks over to your son at the end of the job, 'the wrap', shakes his hand, looks him right in the eye and tells him he did a great job. (And it was your son's first film job, ever)

I have owned fitness centers and been a personal trainer in Montana since 1982, and even had the pleasure of training Brian and Nancy Schweitzer at my last gym in Whitefish. I still work as a personal trainer, when not working in the film business and have had to build up my personal training business to full time because of the lack of film work. My wife works as an 8th grade school teacher in the Bozeman School district and we are barely getting by and just now starting recover from lots of debt. Film work has always provided us with extra cash to pay our bills on time and enjoy living in Montana.

Ever since I saw John Wayne in Big Jake in the 70's here in Helena at the Circus Twin Theatres, I've always loved film, always wanted to be an actor, and now have discovered an exciting position behind the camera as a 'First Assistant Director' (which coincidently was John Wayne's job, when he wasn't acting in the film). If you can pass this film initiative without any limitations, many others like me can realize these dreams and still live in the Last Best Place. And my wife could quit her teaching job if she wanted to and stay home with our kids!

Sincerely I am,
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Cedar, Troy, Malia, Lei-Anna Bertelsen 2003



Jake Bertelsen 2004

