



EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 2.16.05  
HB 584

February 16, 2005

Dear Members of The House Taxation Committee:

HB 584 is, first and foremost, a business recruitment bill. It will allow Montana and Montanans to compete for the billions of dollars spent every year in the business of "manufacturing" motion pictures. Without this legislation, Montana will not be able to compete.

Today, the greatest factors for determining where a film will be produced are the **INCENTIVES** offered by the locations under consideration.

**In the past ten years Montana has easily lost \$100 million in motion picture production to Canada simply because we had no financial incentives to offer and, therefore, could not compete.**

That was not the case in 1991 when the Tom Cruise film "Far and Away" left **direct expenditures of nearly \$7 million in the Billings area**. The same year, "A River Runs Through It" with Brad Pitt had a significant additional impact on the Livingston/Bozeman area. Film production in Montana was a valuable and growing source of revenue in 1991, and the free publicity generated by the films produced here was worth additional millions.

At about the same time, however, the Canadian government put in place incentives which gave Canada a decided advantage over Montana specifically, and the U.S. in general. In fact, "Legends of the Fall," another Brad Pitt film, **with a story featuring Montana**, was shot in Canada in 1993.

Eleven states, including California, have recognized that incentives are necessary to keep film production from "running away" to Canada. **Most recently, New Mexico, Illinois and Louisiana have joined the list of states to put incentives in place. Their successes are phenomenal and well documented.** I urge you to examine the incentives available in those states and their effects individually.

Some suggest this bill will line the pockets of Hollywood actors and/or producers. In truth, it will not affect them at all. What this bill will do is bring the money spent on motion picture production to Montana. **Without passage of this bill, the jobs and commerce associated with the motion picture industry will not come to Montana or Montanans.**

When our risk is only a small percentage of the actual gain, it is hard to call it a risk. I strongly encourage you to support this business recruitment and jobs creation legislation.

Sincerely,

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