

M O N T A N A



Montana Film Center

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2.16.05
584

House Taxation Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT. 59620-0400

February 14, 2005

RE: HB 584

Dear Committee Members:

The Montana Film Center supports HB 584 "The Big Sky on the Big Screen" film industry incentive act. The Montana Film Center based in Livingston/Bozeman is a non-profit grass roots organization made up of Montana film and video professionals promoting film, video, and digital production as an engine for economic development in Montana. We have sponsored three annual *Rendezvous* conferences bringing together video and filmmakers, producers, writers, general supporters of the arts, studio executives, venture capitalists, executives, entrepreneurs, and Montana film students where we discussed creative ways to bring film/video production back to Montana.

We have been working with the Montana Film Office and film/video professionals to help craft incentives that will make Montana competitive in attracting and convincing producers to choose Montana over other domestic and world-wide locations. Following discussions at our November symposium with film commissioners from states with established tax incentives, we feel that HB 584 as drafted will provide such incentive to producers to bring their projects to Montana to not only employ Montanans but also develop an industry that can provide jobs for our young, emerging film students.

Film and video productions have always been a great venue to showcase and promote Montana and its visual beauty to prospective world tourists. We have always seen increased tourist activity after the release of Montana based films and videos. It is a clean industry that brings substantial dollars into the economy. It is estimated that for every dollar spent, 5 to 8 dollars trickle down throughout the economy. 2005 film production is in the wings waiting for the legislature to approve HB 584.

"The Big Sky on the Big Screen" incentive package is crafted by Montanans for Montanans. It is excellent economic development legislation. We ask for your support.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Robert Ebinger
President
Montana Film Center

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