

2.15.05

EXHIBIT 14  
DATE 2.16.05  
48 584

To the Honorable Tax Incentive Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Bill 584, "Big Sky to the Big Screen". I own a Retail / Design business "Shack Up" in Bozeman, Montana and have a 20 year history in the entertainment industry as an Art Director for feature films and commercials.

When I first came to Montana in 1993 the film and commercial industries were thriving, employing local film workers and bringing in outside money to the community from California and New York.

Since Canada began their Tax Incentive Programs, I have watched everything change for the film business here. Many jobs that were planning to come to Montana have gone to Canada instead. I believe with the Tax Incentive Program and a strong presence by the Montana Film Commission we can court the work back to our region.

In our favor we have:

- Talent and support crews, grips, lighting technicians and rental, art direction, wardrobe design, caterers, and producers, location managers, photographers, and AD's living and working in Montana.
- Transportation by major airlines and a growing airport system
- Filming can begin within one week as the infrastructure is already in place—very little is needed to convince film crews to come here other than financial incentives.

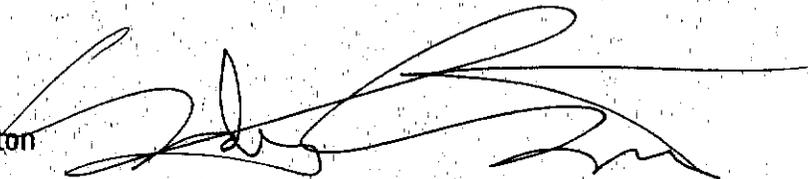
The film industry is relatively low impact and can bring jobs and money to our state. Film crews are like small villages of up to 150 people or more and have all the same needs as any town. Montana can provide a great deal of the infrastructure needed to run a small film project.

As a small business owner I appreciate the money that will be brought into the state. As an environmentalist I appreciate the low impact on our environment.

Feature films and television commercials are some of the best advertising for the beauty and quality of life Montana offers. Please consider that a very concentrated effort in just a few areas, literally millions of additional dollars can be brought to our state, earned by Montanans, and spent here.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sandston



Shack Up

STUDIO + HOME

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