



April 2, 2015

Senate Ways and Means Committee
311 J.A. Cherberg Bldg
PO Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7715

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee,

We, Megan Griffiths and Lynn Shelton, are Washington-based filmmakers writing to ask you to support SB 6027, the bill to increase funding for the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program. We have partnered with Washington Filmworks, the non-profit that manages the production incentive program, on five projects that have generated significant economic activity including wages and benefits for local cast and crew.

We have an episodic series that both of us hope to shoot in Washington State. Washington has the best-designed film incentive program in the country. Many other states are being bled dry by programs that hand money out to productions up front, no matter how that money gets spent. This is not true for Washington. Our program pays back a production only after it has spent money in our state and a very extensive review is completed, and only for money spent on local services and qualified cast and crew hires. Approved projects provide Washington workers family-wage jobs and we are the only incentive program in the country that requires health and retirement benefits for the cast and crew.

Ours is a model program for creating jobs and economic activity. The ripple effect is huge. Since 2007, the fund has generated \$96.3 million in economic activity in our state, a 375 percent return on investment! Truly, the only problem with our program is that its cap is too low. At \$3.5 million, Washington has the fifth-lowest cap of the 38 states with such funds. Last year, the entire amount had been allocated by May. More than \$55 million of economic activity, which would have been brought by the additional productions that applied for incentive funding, had to be turned away. It's possible our series, which could potentially generate significant economic activity for many years, will also have to go elsewhere if our cap is not raised.

Our incentive not only serves to attract larger projects that boost the state's economic infrastructure and provide real, living-wage jobs for Washington residents, up to 10 percent (\$350,000) of the fund is also reserved for local filmmakers. This allotment is designed to incubate local filmmaking talent so it can evolve to create projects that will provide ongoing, sustainable work for the multitudes of crew and cast. (This is the exact process that led to our recent films *Laggies* and *Lucky Them* and, we hope, many future projects.)

As for our TV project, if it gets out of the development stage, and if SB 6027 passes, shooting in Washington is a very real possibility. It's certainly what we are both aiming for, and it's just one more reason that we're so passionate about getting this bill passed. Bringing a TV series to the west side of the state (to complement *Z Nation*, the series already being shot in Spokane) would mean steady, well-paid work for our local cast and crew for much of the year, not to mention the ripple effect on other businesses that are ancillary beneficiaries to a booming creative economy (potential tourism among them—people still buy *Sleepless in Seattle* T-shirts at the airport!).

Please support SB 6027 to keep film – as well as significant economic activity and benefits for local workers – in Washington State. There is no downside; only limitless economic benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Griffiths'.

Megan Griffiths, Filmmaker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Shelton'.

Lynn Shelton, Filmmaker



March 30, 2015

Senator Jim Hargrove
411 Legislative Building
PO Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7646

Dear Senator Hargrove,

We are writing to ask you to support SB 6027, the bill to increase funding for the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program.

We are a group of professional Washington State location managers and scouts. Our job is to find and secure locations to be used, obtain all needed fire, police, and other governmental permits, and coordinate the logistics involved for the production to successfully complete its work. We are the face of the production to the community.

We work on film, television, commercials, and still-shoots. While Seattle and Spokane are two production centers in Washington State, the Olympic Peninsula has proven to be a vital and vibrant resource and destination for motion picture production. As a collective, we've scouted and brought clients to Hoh River, La-Push, Neah Bay, Highway 101, Highway 122, Olympic National Forest, Olympic Peninsula National Park, Fort Worden State Park, Ruby Beach, Lake Crescent, Quinault River, and Indian reservations, among many more.

Here is a list of projects we've personally brought to the Olympic Peninsula in the last two years:

Anthropology (Photo Still Shoot)	Green Mountain Coffee (National Commercial)
<i>AX Men</i> (National Television)	Honda (National Commercial)
Bon Iver (Music Video)	<i>Mick Dodge</i> (National Television)
Cabela's (Photo Still Shoot)	<i>My Five Wives</i> (National Television)
<i>Captain Fantastic</i> (Feature Film)	OPI (Photo Still Shoot)
Coors (National Commercial)	T-Mobile (National Commercial)
<i>Dual Survivor</i> (National Television)	<i>Top Gear</i> (National Television)
Erik Almas Photography (Photo Still Shoot)	Toyota (National Commercial)
Garmin (Photo Still Shoot)	Wrangler (Photo Still Shoot)

As the film office for the state, Washington Filmworks is an important resource for location scouts and managers. Film generates powerful economic impact in your jurisdiction, as well as invaluable tourism benefits. The Motion Picture Competitiveness Program is the best tool we have to win business and we urge you to support SB 6027.

Sincerely,

Washington State Film Location Professionals

Jimmy Canavan
Ken Coble
Dave Drummond

Doug du Mas
Mark Freid
Matt Harrison

Cat Masek
Jennifer Popp
Craig Stewart



To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sherrye Wyatt and I am writing a letter of support for Washington Filmworks, the non-profit 501 (c)(6) organization that manages the state film office and production incentive programs.

I serve as a film liaison in Island County, representing Whidbey and Camano Islands, and am engaged in a partnership with Washington Filmworks that brings valuable economic development opportunities and jobs to our local economy. Through my work with Washington Filmworks we have secured several TV commercials and short films and major film productions. These film projects fill hotels and restaurants and showcase our beautiful islands to potential visitors. This is a very powerful partnership and we greatly value this organization.

Whether it's commercials, non-fiction television, or photo shoots that we have had the opportunity to work with, these motion picture productions have a positive economic and tourism benefit in my city. Without Washington Filmworks' leadership, these opportunities would have never come our way. The staff have even taken the time to visit our islands and help train us to work most effectively with production companies and location scouts.

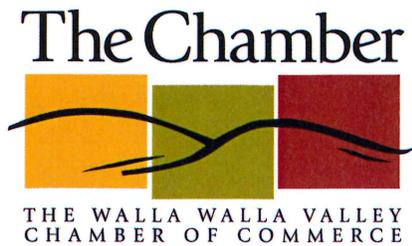
In addition to directing motion picture business to Whidbey and Camano Islands, Washington Filmworks has also developed powerful tools to help streamline production in our area (such as sample permits, guidelines for private property owners, and canvassing letters). As the only statewide film office, Washington Filmworks' astute responsiveness to questions and excellent customer service and expertise are invaluable.

I enthusiastically support Washington Filmworks and the production incentive program. This organization has proven to be an invaluable resource that provides jobs, infrastructure, and economic development opportunities in my community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherrye Wyatt". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sherrye Wyatt
Whidbey and Camano Islands
(360) 929-9924
P.O. Box 687
Freeland, WA 98249



January 23, 2015

RE: Washington Filmworks

Hello!

I am President & CEO of the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce. This letter is in support of the amazing work and RESULTS of the Washington Filmworks organization. Their role is to serve as the lead promoter and catalyst for developing the film and media industry in our state. They deliver the goods!

Our Chamber has worked extensively with Washington Filmworks. It is a powerful partnership for us. We have worked collaboratively on recruiting film and television production to Walla Walla. This has resulted in direct spending in excess of \$120,000 with our small businesses and created local employment. Additionally, it gives Walla Walla exposure on a global basis when these productions are distributed. Not bad.

Additionally, the Chamber has a Creative Economy initiative that we have worked in conjunction with Washington Filmworks. Surprisingly perhaps, but there is growing digital media community here in Walla Walla and a phenomenal program at our local high school. There is an opportunity to grow and expand this industry sector here and in partnership statewide. Washington Filmworks has been an important partner in this effort.

The media /entertainment industry is decentralizing from the traditional centers of Los Angeles and New York. Washington is already a significant player in the interactive game business (Microsoft, Bungee, Big Fish Games, Nintendo, etc.). There is significant creative and technical talent both in front and behind the camera. We have world class locations for filming that are as diverse and alluring as anywhere in the world. Washington Filmworks plays a vital role in aligning and connecting talent and companies with opportunities.

Previously, I was Executive Director of the Oregon Film Commission for 9 years. I have seen firsthand the impact that recruiting film production and developing a locally based industry can have on a local economy. A critical element to make it happen is to have an organization like Washington Filmworks to lead our business development in this sector.

I appreciate your support of Washington Filmworks. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this exciting opportunity for Washington. My phone number is 509-525-0850 and email is dwoolson@wwwchamber.com.

Warm regards,

David Woolson
President & CEO

Washington Trust Bank

Jack Heath
President and
Chief Operating Officer

May 20, 2015

Senator Andy Hill
Email: andy.hill@leg.wa.gov

Dear Senator Hill:

I'm writing to encourage you to support SB 6027 to increase funding for the Motion Picture Competitiveness program. The bill doubles the size of the fund over the next two years to \$7 million, and gradually increases it to \$10 million by 2019.

The economic impact of the program is unquestioned. Over 100 projects have been initiated statewide, with local expenditures of over \$96 million dollars. These are projects that would not have been initiated without incentive funding.

In Spokane we have been keenly aware of the value of the program, as many motion pictures have been produced here employing hundreds of local people and pouring millions of dollars into local businesses. We currently have the second season of "Z Nation" being filmed here creating over 200 jobs, and spending \$1 million dollars locally for each of the 15 episodes.

There is a strong demand for this program, and with the current inadequate funding, many projects representing significant economic benefit must be turned down each year. The Washington Filmworks program stands as a model of a sensible and highly accountable economic incentive program. Please give your full consideration to including SB 6027 in your budget deliberations.

Sincerely,



John E. (Jack) Heath
President, COO