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**From:** Rebecca Babcock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May-05-15 11:04 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Cc:** brendan@brendanmaguire.ca  
**Subject:** Bill 108: Financial Measures Act

To the esteemed members of the Law Amendments Committee,

I am writing to request that you reconsider the proposed changes to the Film Tax Credit in the Financial Measures Act. These changes are poorly researched, poorly planned, and have the potential to devastate a vital industry that employs thousands of skilled Nova Scotians and generates millions of dollars for our economy.

I am a casual film industry employee. I am an actor, and only about 12% of my personal income comes from acting. (However, consider how comfortable most people would be at the prospect of losing 12% of their annual income...) But almost 3000 Nova Scotians work full-time in this industry, and rely on film jobs for 100% of their income. These are skilled workers, and they are hard workers--film industry schedules and jobs are more demanding and challenging than anyone who has never worked in the industry can imagine. The work is physically and intellectually demanding. The hours are very, very long. And working conditions are often punishing--often out of doors, often in bad weather. And many, many film industry workers are young professionals and tradespeople--people starting out in the industry and investing in their professional futures. And if productions stop coming to Nova Scotia (which they will if we don't continue to support the industry in the way that other jurisdictions like Manitoba, California, British Columbia, New York, Quebec, and Ontario do through tax credits and other incentives), these young, skilled, hardworking tradespeople and professionals will lose their jobs. Minister Whalen has suggested that they "adapt." For them, adapting will likely mean leaving to follow the work, like so many other Nova Scotians in other fields have done before them.

I know that there has been a lot of disagreement about what, exactly, the Film Tax Credit's ROI is. Frankly, there shouldn't be any uncertainty on this issue. We need to know exactly what is at stake. The calculations that I have seen are compelling--they tell me that the Film Tax Credit has been a very loud investment in our economy, and that they have tremendous spin-off effects on other industries including tourism and hospitality. But before we slash the Film Tax Credit, we need to thoroughly and rigorously study its effects and know exactly what we are dealing with.

So here is what I am asking for today: keep investing in the film industry for at least one year and do some thorough investigating into the industry's impacts before you make sweeping changes. Offer either a Film Tax credit or a film and television productive incentive fund, but don't cap that fund at \$10million--especially if you don't know that that kind of cut will do to the industry. Reinstate Film and Creative Industries, or at least get some of that department's former employees working at NSBI to make sure that NSBI knows what it's doing and how to deal with the very complicated film industry. Spend a year studying, assessing, and, if necessary, transitioning. Use some basic change management principles. And respect that the film industry is important to our province's economy, employment landscape and culture. Tread carefully. Tread responsibly. Don't make rash, unreasoned, unresearched, poorly-planned decisions that can and will affect the lives of thousands of hard-working, passionate Nova Scotians.

Thank you for considering this request.

Rebecca Babcock, PhD