

March 15, 2023

TO: House Taxes Committee

RE: In support of HF2059

Dear Legislators,

My Name is Michelle Scott. I am the General Manager of Chisholm Inn & Suites in Chisholm, Minnesota. I am submitting this letter in support of HF2059 and to share the positive impact that the Filming productions have had on the Iron Range and just this last year not only with the hotel that I manage but with other local businesses in the surrounding areas as well.

Just last year alone with the filming production staying at the hotel between two low-budget movies and one episode of a pilot film for a TV series along with a few non-profit workshops that they had put on in the area.

Chisholm Inn & Suites has had a \$100,000 increase in revenue from the filming productions.

Out of the \$100,000 that we've made in revenue from the filming productions and between 35 to 45 days, We were able as of right now, we have spent \$35,000 between wages of hired help to do updates and improvements on 5 out of 43 rooms as well work on improvements on our pool area buy spending at the local hardware stores and the new hire help.

Chisholm Inn & Suites was able to hire local contractors/handyman to work on the updates that were much needed in our building and still are continually working on and spend even more money at local hardware stores such as Casey's drugs/ Do It Best hardware in which they're the same owners and business just the drugstore is upstairs of the building and the do It Best hardware store is in the basement of the building. We have also spent money on supplies from I&M fleet Supply and Lowe's out of Hibbing as well as Menards from Virginia. Making it four stores within 20 miles of our hotel, as well as hiring five more people to do and still are at this moment, employees now the filming production has done their own spending money in the local areas as well as in Casey's drugs/do it Best hardware out of Chisholm between two of the productions which would be a 23-day time span. The production spent \$32,000, \$35,000 in locations that they rent from locals to use their homes and buildings for filming part of their movies, \$40,000 in catering to feed the filming crew, and \$10,000 in car rentals in just a 14-day film shoot.

Giving the Film production a total of \$108,000 in a 23-day time frame between two low-budget films in which one of them was only a 9 shoot and the other one was a 14-day.

That's not even counting the money they had spent on hiring a Minnesota state license teacher to be on set while filming because two of the actress and actors were school-age children whose schools were in session at the time of filming and they did not want the children falling behind on their academics. That's not even included in the \$108,000 spent on the few categories I had mentioned already on top of hiring locals to drive some of the film production people to their destination for filming and back to the studio for meal times as well as transporting them from the hotel to the studio.

The film productions also hired locals from the areas to be extras. And wish my 8-year-old daughter at the time was seven and was lucky to have one of the spots as an extra and one of the first films they had

filmed in the area last year called Cash for Gold she had made over \$800 before taxes and after taxes, she had taken home a little over \$600 and as a typical 7-year-old you can only imagine what she would have spent her money on yes toys and candy. but not only that she put her money into her own savings account for college.

And in that same Film production called Cash for Gold the Film production even hired out a few of the local fire department firefighters to have a part in the film and in the process one of the firefighters being part of the film. One of the producers became friends and talked about business opportunities in town. Now he is partnered with one of the firefighters from the city of Chisholm and they bought our hometown bakery that would be closing down due to the previous owner's health issues as well as made Airbnb above the bakery.

So now the town of Chisholm doesn't have to watch another business close down and become just another vacant building. instead, it will be helping the economy and even more profit to the community. Just the same as the studio's last 40 rents to empty space in the basement of the city hall that allows more funding to be put back into the city of Chisholm.

Not only has the studio helped increase local business revenue in the economy of the surrounding community, they have inspired many of the locals such as one of the film producers who had been questioned about an Easter egg theory between two movies and that film producer looking at that 15-year-old boy and telling him to write the script. Just by that film producer telling that 15-year-old to write the script. it had inspired him to start writing and now that 15-year-old had started to write more. His grades in his English class have gone from C's and D's to A's and B's in less than a year.

I don't know about you but to me, it is worth more than any money that could be spent in the economy. Especially nowadays I would have to say that kids don't even know how to read or write in cursive. Trust me I worked for about 3 and a half years working in school districts as a Paraprofessional.

It has been said the reason why the Iron Man statue that stands on the outskirts of Chisholm was made to be Chisholm's tombstone when the city dies out. Now to me, that hurts.

I grew up in this community and I don't want to see it nor do other locals from the community want to see the city or any other cities in the surrounding areas as so many have already. I may be only 38 years old, but I can think of just within a 7-mile radius five mining communities have disappeared. And I'm willing to bet that even 90% of people in my age group who grew up in this community just as I have, don't even know that they existed. Because in a flash they disappeared, just the same as the stores in the malls that at one time were full.

I sincerely hope you will support HF2059 and increase the tax credit from \$5 million to \$25 or even more million dollars that way we can get bigger film productions so they can continue to help boost the economy not just on the iron range but the hole the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Michelle Scott
General Manager
Chisholm Inn & Suites, Chisholm, MN