

March 7, 2023

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to you today regarding the MN State House bill, HF 2059. Currently, I am in preproduction to produce my third movie in Minnesota in less than a year. I feel it's important for me to share my thoughts about shooting a feature in Minnesota and why the tax incentives have made it possible for me to have an economic impact in your state. I have worked in the entertainment industry for over twenty years and in that time I have seen the positive affect film and television production can have on a state's economy. Take Georgia for instance, in less than fifteen years, they have experienced in state spending that has reached 4.4 billion dollars. That is a huge economic impact. The reason? TAX INCENTIVES. Those incentives made it appealing to shoot in their state. People moved from Los Angeles to Georgia because they believed in the opportunities being created there. These opportunities helped produce jobs, a housing boom and an economic impact felt statewide.

I first became aware of the opportunities in Minnesota when I brought a project to the Catalyst Film Festival in 2019. During that time, I learned about the opportunities being proposed by state and local film offices. I have to be honest, I was skeptical at first, but after talking to the folks at The Upper Midwest film office, I knew Minnesota was serious about building a future for film and television production in the state, as Georgia did less than 15 years ago.

The tax incentives are more important today than they have ever been. As our industry changes and more and more content is needed, companies are realizing they need to produce product in larger numbers. In the past, a studio would produce 10 - 15 movies a year. Now, with streaming and VOD, studios need to compete and/or supply these companies with ten times those numbers. And the need is only going to get bigger. This is why the incentives are so important, especially for states competing for production. I was set to shoot "Merry Kiss Cam" in Chicago, but when I learned about the incentives being offered in your state, I decided to move the production Minnesota. And because of these film incentives, it's abled me to bring projects back quicker. I have pitched a slate of movies to shoot in Minnesota through 2024. This would keep well over 300 people employed during that time and a consistent influx of money throughout the state. However, it's easier to get a company to invest money in more productions if they believe the state is going to continue to support the industry and help it grow without the chance of these incentives going away the next year. Bigger and bigger projects will come as they see the more production being done here. That means more JOBS, for a longer period, all over the state. We are losing productions to other countries because studios think it's more advantages to invest where long term support and more money have been promised.

I am committed to producing movies in Minnesota. I believe in this film community which stretches all over the state from the Iron Range to Duluth to the twin cities to

Rochester to Grand Marais just to name a few. These incentives create an opportunity to have a huge impact all over the state. But this can only happen if the legislators see the importance of supporting the industry. I am proud of the movies I have produced here. I am proud and grateful for the people who worked on my crew and the communities that have supported us. I am proud when I can help a small business or hear a story from someone working on the film who felt lost and had no idea what they wanted to do in life, but now wants to be an AD (Assistant Director). That's an impact you can't see on paper. You have a huge opportunity to see another industry boom in Minnesota. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mandy June Turpin  
Producer  
Burbank, CA

*\*"Merry Kiss Cam"*

*\*"Body Language"*

*\*"Rescuing Christmas"*

*(\*made in Minnesota)*