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Dear Legislators,

It appears that you have forgiven the film office for the paper work snafu after the Hateful Eight in 2014. Good. They have fulfilled the parameters of what they see as their purpose. They have kept up a good web site with correct and factual information about film festivals and a crew list of some available people for film jobs in all categories. The number of local people participating with the film office in putting their names on the list is abysmal. The locals do not participate because they do not see the film office as having their back. The truth is that the film office does not. The Film Office has included the high school grants – selective awarding of grants, not on a first come first served process and as funds permit, (selecting one or two a year to Native American or low income schools only.) Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful in so far as they see what their parameters are. The film office, markets Colorado to smaller budget out of state productions that are definitely valuable in giving a shot in the arm to smaller communities, which can be the difference in staying in business or closing. The 50% Colorado crew requirements attached to these projects can be misleading. The Colorado workers hired are generally not 'film people', but are the caterers, drivers – limo service to shuttle production people to and from the location and the rest are people to load and unload trucks. This year in the productions in Boulder and Golden, I understand something new here in that there are a handful of local film folk working.

In case no one has informed you about some national film developments, Texas is building a double sound stage in the Austin Area for \$297 million. Arizona is pumping \$75,000,000 in film in 2023, \$100 million in 2024, \$125 million in 2025. According to the Albuquerque Journal, Arizona's purpose is to 'lure' production from California and New Mexico. In other words playing chase. Oklahoma, appropriates \$49 million – Sylvester Stallone's Tulsa Kings, New York mob story told in Tulsa. Connecticut, 37%. I am appalled and disgusted with this business model that the whole rest of the country follows. This promotes the 'creepy' culture of Phil Spector and Harvey Weinstein and others who have participated but not yet been adjudicated as well as padding budgets for fraud.

We have a gift that some call a curse. That is TABOR. I served on a professional legislative committee once upon a time and looked at the heart of a bill, cutting through the noise. The gist that jumps out at me is -whatever you do it should be; FOR THE DIRECT BENEFIT AND WELFARE FOR THE CITIZENS OF COLORADO. While the film office can make a case for marketing Colorado to small and mid level productions, does that movie in Breckenridge last year – in which I was an extra, (extra's do not fall under the 50% rule), help in the state? In a limited way yes. How does this help Del

Norte, Cortez, Lamar, Pueblo, Ft. Collins, Grand Junction? I think previous legislative sessions have felt like it was valid, but very little and lacking. I would agree.

In my view this is what should happen to film in Colorado:

The first thing is to lower the \$100,000 (One hundred thousand) spend to \$50,000 for local film makers. These people are raising that money on their own and usually do not have a fat daddy studio to go to. By lowering the spend film makers may be able to grow into doing three (3) projects a year rather than one project in 3 years. As they feed films into the pipeline, more stable jobs grow as more and more local Colorado people work. The locals have a studio – 1500 to 3000 sq ft. They are tenants and contribute to the local economy.

Of course you have the pre production work, finding a story you want to tell -script – screen writer, finding the locations you want to film at -location scout-, deciding how much money you have – budget. Filming time, shot selection, so how much crew do you need, equipment rental. Filming – how many days can you get all the shots in to tell the story you want. Then filling the pipeline, so all the post production people can work on a more regular basis. Composer, Editors, Colorist, Foley, Film Credit Crawl and more. This helps to stabilize the local industry and allows it to grow. As they grow they need to hire.

Then you get school to work programs from the 23 collegiately accredited programs in the state. The Community Colleges, including Arapahoe Community College rated 15th in the country and 25th in the world by Variety industry magazine. The other 22 programs fall underneath that as well as the majority of film programs around the country and the world. The Universities in the state call their programs under Film, Media, TV, Communications. All the state schools and private universities have a program including DU, Regis, Colorado Christian University, not to mention all the trade and technical schools. This way, kids have a pathway to work after spending their educational dollars here.

The next thing is that \$200,000 goes to the high school film grants. What happens of course is that skills already identified happen. That is: Giving kids a voice, Vocational Education – training on specific equipment, rental fees to local business for that equipment. Project management skills that increase cognitive thinking, leadership skills, collaborative skills and crisis management skills? (LinkedIn has identified these as the skills employers currently require, more than what college you graduated from.) Next of course is the exhibition of the film. I expect to see many films on Gun Violence: school shootings – Why should I bother to get up and go to school today when I might get killed. Domestic Violence, Despair, not just depression, When Urban problems go to a small town. Pregnant girls, Helping a neighbor, Fundraising for park improvements, the local high school life. I want to hear from Center, Del Nort, Cortez, Flagler, Brush, Kremmling, Craig, Lamar, San Louis Valley – does the potato farmer have a good standard of living after paying for all the overhead? (perhaps Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Transportation, Immigration would like to know.) Florence – how does the prison

effect the town? Cortez, Gunnison, Dove Creek (Give yourself extra credit if you didn't have to look up Dove Creek or Briggsdale.) Briggsdale – there is still a teacherage.

All that information from the high school documentaries is current (within 6 months) and should be sent to appropriate state agencies to help in their planning for solutions. Does it reinforce their thinking, does it tweak it, does it say they have been looking at the problem all wrong, does it offer additional solutions, or nuances in implementing solutions? It does not add to their current budget for gathering information, and research. (I also think you should allow narrative (fictional stories) to be used in the grant funding as well as documentaries. Who knows, you might get a cute vampire bunny movie.) Many film festivals around the state have a high school section, and will show them without submission fees. A big factor is that the high school movies GIVE DIRECT, CURRENT AND VALID RESEARCH TO STATE AGENCIES WITHOUT INCREASING STATE AGENCIES BUDGETS, while doing all the educational things you would expect. You also get a feather in your cap for supporting your district's kids.

Next work on studios and sound stages. Context is important here as studio and sound stages are used interchangeably. Studio for the little guy is office space – 1500 to 3000 square feet. They are tenants and keep their office, filming equipment, green screen and voice over studios there. I have in my vision identified three areas in the state for developing sound stages and developing controlled planned growth to slow down Urban Sprawl.

I have been told, no one will do inconvenient travel from out of state. So with that in mind: (more about time than distance)

- 1) North East Colorado because direct flights from LA and New York to Cheyenne. 50 miles South – less traffic than 50 miles North from DIA.
- 2) South East Colorado – direct flights from LA and New York to the Colorado Springs airport. Build between Colorado Springs and Pueblo. There are so many LA area film transplants in the Colorado Springs, Monument area, that are trained and want to go straight to work. They haven't joined IATSE because why pay dues if there is no work. There is CSU Pueblo that has a Media and TV programs that partners with PBS. There is also an enclave of animators in the Pueblo area. TV studios there. Do we not have the where with all to host Food Network?
- 3) The western slope. It is a secondary airport in Grand Junction, but development there would be exceptional. There are 5 of the 7 climate zones in easy reach. A cross country buddy story can be filmed there. It was reported in 2020 that almost half of the NAPA Valley burned down. We have vineyards and orchards (Palisades Peaches – YUM). Ranches, so Old West, New West, stories. Build a western town or go to Como. Have conflict on the ranch, ride on horse back to the old bank, have a shoot out and then get over to the Badlands by Parachute for a horse chase. Out in the Badlands tell of the displaced oil worker. (This

year's political campaigns say 12,000 have been displaced.) There will be stories about the contraction of fossil fuel industry. Girl and her horse stories. The two genres easiest to get distribution are Horror Movies and Faith Based stories. Go to the ski areas and do another Down Hill Racer movie – 1969 with Robert Redford, (CU grad) as a competitive skier. Do we have any competitive skiers in the state? Lindsey Vaughn comes to mind – oh wait, she retired.

The Governor said on TV a few weeks ago that there will be no more coal fired plants in the state by 2029. That's 7 years. How do we absorb those people into a new GREEN Industry? Film.

Next, how do we service the girl on WIC – Women Infants Children who has the sick kid that needs eyeglasses. How do we get her off the welfare roles into training, welfare to work program, being able to provide for herself and baby and have a way out of surviving, by gaming the system and developing PRIDE? Film. You don't need a college degree to work in an office.(FBLA PROGRAM) Lots of offices on a sound stage.

Require Sound Stage Builds to have a specific spot in the **plans for Day Care**. Not all film jobs are 12-16 hour days. Bring your child to work and go at lunch to see them. Especially valid for welfare to work programs. Thwarts crummy, crass, rude behavior.

Many jobs in film are not very technical and have a short learning curve. She can start at the sound stage and move laterally into the larger work force. She doesn't suffer because of film, she gains the ability to provide for herself and child, get a car, apartment and PRIDE.

Opportunities need to be developed for film with Colorado students and Producers, Screen writers, Camera people, Drone People, Composers and all of the types of jobs on the film office list. Many students are new to film but are developing their skills and don't know the film office offers a listing for them. I think many of you all got notes that said, I am a stakeholder. Film office doesn't know about these people. Many of those people don't know about the list or think it is of much value, or think much of the film office.

Film Office parameters seemed to aimed at out of state productions and not local people. That is why the first \$2 million should go to instate people. The past few years of \$750,000, bumped up to \$1.3 or \$2 million by OEDIT doesn't go to locals. Most locals can't meet \$100,000 spend and so by default the monies go to out of state productions. I'm not so sure that wasn't subtext at the policy meeting all along.

So here is your **action plan** for this next budget. 1) You will lower the budget spend from \$100,000 to \$50,000 either by legislating it or instructing the film office to change policy. **THAT IS TO BE DONE THIS NEXT BILL**. Then you will decide how much you need, not want, but need to spend to make PARITY, not equity with our film budget to meet the goals required to be competitive. Not to lure or chase as Arizona is going to, but to support our local film people first and to develop the next generation of film

makers. Who is going to replace Wes Craven or John Carpenter as the premier horror director? I know a kid that at Denver School of the Arts produced 2 horror feature length movies with one getting national distribution. His name is Tannar McGarr. He graduated in 2021 (I think) and is going to school here in Colorado. Who is the next Katherine Bigalow or Penny Marshal? I know of 3 candidates. Sophia Baldwin who graduated from CU Boulder and works in the metro area in production. Cassie Gurerra who graduated from CU Boulder and works in the central South East. Zohar who graduated from Denver School of the Arts and is going to school at Chicago School of Art and Design although she is more comedic – like Penny Marshall (Laverne from Lavern and Shirly who went on to direct.) Who is going to be the next Steven Spielberg? Tyler Stewart who is a transplant from Ohio and is making movies and shortening his learning curve by giant leaps each time. Who will be a great producer like Jerry Weintraub or Barry Levenson? Armando Martinez or Grant Wood, Noah Smith, Noah Mittman, Katheryn Gould, Andrea Norgren, Darla Rae, Diego Rodriguez (From North Denver), J.D. Gonzales, Jim Janacek, Jarod Petcher, Kent Youngblood.

We have that potential here now. Quality people who went to school here or live here and work here on film projects now! Not one person in the professional or semi professional groups complained that supplying the film office with THREE, 3, years of rent or mortgage receipts with corresponding Xcel energy bills for each address was a problem to them. The purpose is to prevent carpet bagging. (This eliminates Cal from California who calls his cousin, Paul the plumber that lives in Aurora, buying a house and asks if he can use his address so he can apply as a local.)

We need to support them from high school, college and first jobs, with lower spends. We can grow to be a premier state for film with great sound stages (\$297 million for construction currently in Texas by Austin. Do we have any big construction companies that would jump at the chance to do that kind of build? (How about the company that took over the failed great hall project from the South American company at the airport? Do you suppose they would like to build something like that, employing local workers?, With school to work programs in the construction industry and from 23 college film programs, and welfare to work programs - in film.

2) You will allocate \$200,000 to the high school grant program, because in providing and developing all the expected skills and opportunities for exhibition, and providing a feather in your cap with your constituents especially in lower populated districts, you provide direct, current, valid research to state agencies.

The 9 factor indicated by DCPA 2018 annual budget holds true. New Mexico in 2021 indicated for their spend, they got back \$855.1 million. Short of 9 but closer than 44. Ball park 9 is a good indicator.

There isn't any money? Were you not willing to spend \$655 million to entice Amazon to build a hub here? One tenth of that isn't unreasonable in this GREEN industry that absorbs fossil fuel workers, with increasing budgets as results are seen.

Changing the current national business model from catch up and lure is something we can do for Colorado. We don't need to overbuild, but we do need to employ our quality people. You have probably heard, ' we don't have that level of quality people here.' That is by people assuming old information, and so are talking through their hats. Thank you for your time. Ronna Burrows Wheatridge. 303-431-6344

P.S. Denver hosts SERIES FEST. A world wide TV script and show purchasing event. Representatives from China, India, Portugal – Brazil, Spanish speaking countries, France, Great Britain, Australia as well as all over the USA come to see and look at scripts and tv shows that would translate to TV in their countries. Held in May at the SIE Film Center, Colfax Ave. and Columbine St., Denver, across from East High School. You should go. Liberty Global Media Chair, Mike Fries, usually hosts a panel.

Member CFVA, Past WIFMCO – Board Secretary, FIND, CREW, Denver Film Society, Sunday Table Reads. Volunteer for Denver Film Festival - Denver Comicon – Kid's Lab, Highlands West Low Income Senior Apts. – Current Board President, DECA Hall of Fame 1980, Who's Who in the West and Who's Who of American Women 1990 -2003, Lifetime achievement 2019. Wyoming Vocational Association - Legislative Committee -1979-1980, Deacon, Elder, 8 year member Committee of Ministry Denver Presbytery, Chemistry scholarship sponsor-D'Evelyn Jr. Sr. High School. Volunteer – School, Church and Political organizations, coached recreational soccer
EDUCATION 1979 – CSU, BA, Education - Vocational H.S. -DECA, 1983 Cert - FBLA, Dual Licensure until 2013.

Denver Post November 15, 2022

Colorado, whose film rebate muscle has been criticized as both too little and poorly managed by past state legislatures, is also anticipating "High Science," a reality TV series of cannabis that comes with the pedigree of "Pawn Stars" and "Duck Dynasty" producers. It was approved in October for a \$221,000 film incentive on an estimated spend of \$1.1 million locally, with 26 local cast and crew members. Production has already begun and will continue through February 2023.

Rick McGovern – FIND post November 21, 2022

Hi! Just moved back from Los Angeles and looking to build a permanent team and specifically for an editor (such an important job - and it will allow me to spend more time creating than editing) to help me build my YouTube channel as it starts to grow (it just got monetized recently). I'm looking for someone with vision, passion, and who wants to grow and build this with me, so to be transparent, pay would depend on the profits as the channel starts bringing in more money. Content will be similar to Mr. Beast, Ryan Trahan, Fidias (who I just did a couple videos with), Airrack, ZHC, Zealous, Matthew Beem, and Jstu (the last 3 are in Colorado Springs), and others. I also do a live Q&A podcast for filmmakers that I'll be continuing in January where I bring on fairly big screenwriters, editors, actors, etc. My main goal, other than to make a good living for everyone involved, is to make fun, positive content that makes an impact in the world. Also currently working on collaborations with bigger YouTubers, some with over 1 million subscribers. Thx!

Cynthia Cazan Gurren FIND post December 3, 2022

Hi everyone, I wanted to take a moment to introduce my husband Pablo Alejandro Perez Corredera. He is a drone pilot and cinematographer with over 10 years of experience in film, commercial and television production. He is looking for freelance jobs in the Denver area. He owns a DJI Mavic 3, a Blackmagic Pocket 6K camera, a 5D Mark III camera, and a minivan cargo. Please, keep him mind for any drone pilot, camera op, AC, electric or PA gigs. He is very handy so he is a great asset in a film production. He also speaks both English and Spanish.

Change the Film Office parameters to help the Small Businessman -LITTLE GUY.

Thank you, Ronna Burrows, Wheatridge, CO. Ronnamom@juno.com