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**From:** Rachel Filiatrault <rae [REDACTED] m>  
**Sent:** May-06-15 6:59 AM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Presenting to Law Amendments Committee

Dear members of the Law Amendments Committee,

I am sadly out of country and unable to speak before you today.

I am pleading for you to step up, be courageous and put the proposed changes to the film tax credit on hold and to reinstate NS Film and Creative Services immediately. Please allow ample time for analyses to be done and information to be processed. Your study from 2008 is a great start. The consultations with members of Screen Nova Scotia were welcomed. Continue the back work and research needed before passing such a decision into law.

Unfortunately, I do not have access to any new information that has not already tickled your eardrums. I wish I knew the magic words to capture your attention and flick the switch to open your eyes, minds and hearts on this pressing matter. You hold the lives, futures and dreams, of many current Nova Scotians and their families in the palm of your hand right this very minute. Do not squeeze. Do not crush us. We are talented, smart, strong, committed people who LOVE Nova Scotia and what we do.

Let me ask if you watch TV or films? Perhaps you do every evening or at least once in a while to put your feet up, sit back and relax?

When you watch a show or a movie, isn't it such a great feeling to be able to say, 'hey, that was filmed right here in my backyard showcasing our beautiful province and the talent and hard work of my neighbours and fellow members of my community'? Is there not a sense of pride that comes with this? (If you don't understand that ask my mom how she feels whenever the credits roll and she catches a glimpse of mine or my brothers or my nieces name.)

The numbers, by now, speak for themselves. This is not an industry in trouble. This is not a dying industry that needs a life saver. It is a healthy, vibrant, fruitful industry that will shine on for years to come. This industry employs countless of our tax paying citizens. This industry keeps young population at home, employable in our communities. This industry lures hard working, passionate immigrants to our province. This industry invites hundreds of tourists to walk our streets and admire our landscapes and spend their money each year. This industry supports local business both urban and rural from restaurants, grocers, gift shops, furniture, antiques, home owners, hotels, inns, B&B's, to car rentals, gas stations, building supplies AND the list goes on and on.

I have a voice today and it would not feel right to leave out how saddened and disappointed I am with the magnitude of cuts happening with this hideous budget. Our students, our impaired, our mentally ill, our hungry; none deserve to have your backs turned on them now or ever. This is not how you successfully grow a province. Is this how you grow your plants? Of course not. You water them and talk to them and nourish them and stimulate them and assist them so they may grow and flourish. Think about it. Is this the province you want to be responsible for? I understand there are difficult choices to make because Nova Scotia has registered deficits in the last 20 or 30 years. I know we're borrowing to pay for our public services but we need these public services.

There is no doubt in my mind Nova Scotia will soon feel these devastating effects and hurt as much as her people are right now.

Talking numbers, axing the tax credit and support NS Film and Creative Services brings to our table, is NOT your solution. A bigger hole will be dug instead of the underlying goal. Mark my words, this decision will be regretted if not rectified. Each and every one of you will be touched by it.

You have an opportunity to undo some major damage and rise above. Simply put, you don't need to fix what isn't broken.

Respectfully,

Rachel Filiatrault

