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**From:** Bob Mann [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** May-06-15 2:41 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 108, the Financial Measures Act

Dear Law Amendments Committee:

My name is Bob Mann. I'm an actor and member of ACTRA, and I have been involved in the local film industry for the last five years.

It's hard to set down roots and have a family when you're a member of the creative class. But in the last 5-10 years I've watched as many of my friends and colleagues, both in front of and behind the screen (and some on and behind the stage) have been able to do just that thanks to a fiscal environment that encourages and supports companies to bring their productions here. I've watched as young, vibrant, dedicated and active members of the artistic community have gone from roommate-shoppers with futons to being home-owners with children. People who would ordinarily have to leave, have been able to stay here, and they work in an industry that has grown steadily and consistently, not only in the size of its numbers and successes, but in its prominence. It helps our brand. It brings us to the world. As a side bonus, it doesn't depend on using natural resources or massive government investment for which a return might never be seen. We have a history of propping those industries up, even when they're obviously in decline. The creative industry in Nova Scotia is NOT one of those.

I come from a political family.

In my own way, I've felt the inside of government.

I've witnessed the challenge of making tough decisions. Unpopular decisions.

So I'm not blindly one-sided when I ask: Why weaken an incentive that fits perfectly within the four corners of the spirit of the Ivany report and is demonstrably working? Why weaken, to the point of eliminating altogether, an incentive that makes us competitive, encourages an entrepreneurial spirit and is already helping people stay here?

The only answer I can come up with is that it makes the strict, narrow accounting of the governments books look better. It's a budgetary public relations effort, pitched as a big hit to a niche industry. One that has a devastating effect on a lot of people, but not the people who traditionally matter at election time. As someone who has been involved in politics, this is very bothersome to me. It feels like a decision made by an accountant who thought, "Hey, the balance sheet will look better if we yank this thread over here." It's discounts the broader impact and only considers the impact on the balance sheet. I expect the private sector to take such a narrow view of their own financial health. I don't believe that this kind of thinking should apply to government.

The Film Tax Credit is one of many things that makes our province a better, more interesting and feasible place in which to live and work. It's only one thing. But there are others. And now I'm worried about those too.

I understand fiscal realities. I have five kids. Our own budget is insane and there are always tough choices to be made. But I also know that balance-sheet governance almost always leads to hidden expenses that are unanticipated. And the expense in this instance: We lose most of our best, brightest most interesting people. We lose their future investment, their taxes, their children, their leadership potential. I ask that the changes be reconsidered and that a more serious spirit of consultation be adopted so that the real impacts of future changes be known and accounted for.

Sincerely,

Bob Mann