

Dear Members of the Committee:

In 1984 I, along with Michael Donovan and Bill Skerrett, was one of three industry representatives on a study undertaken by the then minister Rollie Thornhill to determine the viability of provincial support for the nascent film and television industry.

That study was a landmark in that it embraced detailed discussions with the very industry it was commissioned to study. A wise move that gathered vital information, resulting in measures that dramatically benefitted the industry and the province as a whole. Of this, there is irrefutable evidence and only persons predisposed to cause the industry and, as a result, the province, to falter would be blind to that evidence. Consultation worked and worked very well.

So why would the current government act in defiance of this evidence? What person or persons in the department of finance would advise an unfortunately naive government to act in such an ill-informed and reckless manner. It is obvious from the almost completely unanimous response from the industry and the greater economic community that has benefitted from the industry's ever growing success, that a huge error in judgement has occurred.

I ask that the government immediately find a way to right this wrong. Please listen to the wisdom of those who have a real knowledge and understanding of our industry. And please move quickly. Remove the July deadline at the very least. The damage that has been visited upon this industry is very real. The future of a very vital engine of economic growth is at stake. This is not hyperbole. This is reality.

Thank you for listening to a concerned member of the industry, resident, small business owner, taxpayer and voter in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

William D. MacGillivray

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