

Attachment 4

Statement from Jennifer Isenhardt

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S.1616, or the FILM Act is a win-win-win-- for the commercial film industry; for public lands managers; and for the future of public lands.

My husband and I own documentary and commercial film company based in Boise, Idaho. We've been working and filming in Idaho for more than 30 years. For decades, we've struggled with a patchwork system of film permits with various public lands agencies. We have always felt that the red tape and expense of film permits is double taxation and over regulation, as small film crews, such as our own, have no greater impact on public lands than the general public. We often film with 2 and 3 person crews, stay in areas where the public is allowed, and follow all existing regulations for public use.

Additionally, we regularly witness how difficult it is for many government agencies to *manage* film permitting. In fact, we have had difficulty with several different agencies in even obtaining permits, because there is no available staff to call us back, particularly during fire season. In one particular case, we tried for three months to get a permit to film in one of the national forests in Idaho and never did receive a call back from that forest. The protocols vary from agency to agency, and the eventual cost of a permit doesn't even pay for the staffing time required to administer it.

The FILM Act solves both sides of this issue, for small commercial filming companies and for public land management agencies. The FILM Act bars requiring a permit or assessing a fee for certain commercial or noncommercial photography or content creation on lands administered by the Departments of the Interior or Agriculture. The content creation must meet specified requirements, such as taking place in an area where the public is allowed and not intruding on the experience of others. But it doesn't open up commercial filming too much. Crews over 10 persons will still require special permits-- as they should. Any filming operation that has a greater impact than the general public, or who wishes to work in areas not open to the general public-- should undergo a review, planning and approval process with that land management agency. The FILM Act maintains this requirement for large crews.

In the modern world of Instagram influencers filming at every national park, mountain view or scenic vista... the concept of managing and permitting every small filming crew is no longer attainable. Fortunately, the regulations are already in place for the general public *and* these small filming crews. This protects our treasured public lands without over-regulating the people who want to capture and share these beautiful images-- images which will only bolster the love of and support for these special places. In this way, the Senate FILM act is also a win for the future of our public lands.

Please vote YES on the S.1616, the Senate FILM Act. Thank you.