

## Rural Support of SB14 (Moab)

The Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission (MMVFC) has been in existence since 1949. It was originally established when John Ford came to our area to shoot several westerns. There was a growing need for film support, so locals became production assistants, and were trained to fulfill various needs in the film industry. As a result, more and more filmmakers came to our area. Moab, and surrounding communities fast became reliant on the film industry to build the economy. In the late 70's and early 80's, a couple of production companies were established, and were able to hire out work to locals. The film industry was booming. By the late 90's the industry started to change. Production companies were not necessarily going to the most scenic locations to shoot their films, but rather, doing it in studios. Then, to make matters worse, the competition came about where states were offering incentives to bring film projects in.

In 2004, when Utah started to offer a state incentive, the MMVFC was dying down due to circumstances with the local government. In 2008 the MMVFC became active again, and started bringing productions to the area. Moab and surrounding communities have not seen a full-length feature film since 2005, and 2001 is the last time this area saw a large budget project. Currently, there are four pending projects which would turn our economy, in regards to the film industry, around. Two of the original production companies remain in Moab, and several individuals who work in the film industry are anxiously awaiting these larger projects. The matter at hand is, we have to compete. If Senate Bill 14 were to pass, it would be the extra draw needed to bring in the larger budget productions. It turn, the smaller projects are drawn to the area from the publicity that comes with the large productions.

Senate Bill 14 is essential to the film industry in Moab, Blanding, Monitcello, Castle Valley, Monument Valley, Bluff, and Mexican Hat. Just in Moab alone there are over 150 individuals who work in the film industry, but are having to look for other part-time employment.

The Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission appreciates the support received over the years, and would love to see continued support in years to come. Senate Bill 14 will have a great impact on the economy, and the lives of many individuals in the rural southern Utah communities.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kind Regards,

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