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In lieu of presenting testimony in person, please accept this letter for the record in support of Bill No. 31-0009 sponsored by Senator Clifford Graham to elevate the US Virgin Islands film industry to a competitive level with the vast majority of the world.

I am Willard John, an Administrator in the public school system on the island of St. Croix. In submitting this testimony I am wearing multiple hats which includes: involved educator, Founder and Artistic Directorof the Guardian of Cultrue Mocko Jumbies and owner of Jumbie Productions Inc. And all of these disciplines significantly come to bear individually and collectively in support of conventional Film Incentives to grow our local film and music video industry.

The above disciplines intersect and overlap each other and have great bearing in solidifying a sound and productive film industry. Each stands to benefit from an incentive-sized film industry. Why?

Growth of the film industry would give greater cause for the development of craft skills, which are at the heart or our successful career and technical programs. For example, our students enrolled in the culinary arts program would have significant opportunities to develop and showcase their skills and engage in services specific to on-location production catering; students in the electrical program would be able to diversify their offerings in the grip and electric departments of filmmaking; students in carpentry and related crafts can look forward to work in the local film industry as set-builders and on set carpenters. And let me add, that students in carpentry are about to learn about and fabricate a supply of "apple boxes" – those wooden boxes that are used very commonly on production to give height to equipment and people to stand on – and wood shims.

There are already a couple Production Assistants (PA's) that received training at the Career and Technical Education Center such as Maleek Joseph.
The Guardians of Culture Moko Jumbies appeared in a significant number of films, commercials, and music videos throughout the years in the VI. My students cherish the opportunities for exposure and enjoy the benefits of significant remuneration as a result of engaging with the film and music video industry.

Jumbie Productions Inc. of which I am the President, already assists with production elements and logistics, such as producing cultural scenes, road closures, site management and traffic control for the film industry. I am intimately involved in the film Industry as an Education Administrator, a provider of talent, logistics coordinator and Culture Bearer. Providing film incentives would stimulate the industry, which would result in opportunities for many residents as well as diversify the VI economy.

As I approach the end of my Education career my plans are to transition much of my activities into the film industry, which holds a bright future of opportunities for Virgin Islanders. I support Bill 31-0009 without reservation due to the rewards and benefits many Virgin islanders will receive when it becomes law.

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