

Dear members of the House committee on Tourism & Recreation Committee,

My name is Alex Orlovsky and I am currently producing a film called Blue Valentine in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I have produced a number of independent films, most notably Half Nelson, for which Ryan Gosling received a best actor nomination at the 2007 Academy Awards.

Blue Valentine tells the story of a contemporary married couple who look back on happier days as their marriage comes apart. The two leads are Ryan Gosling (the Notebook) and Michelle Williams (Dawson's Creek, Brokeback Mountain).

We are shooting in and around Scranton, Pennsylvania. Our film has been based out of Scranton since the beginning of April. Principal photography began May 4th, and will conclude at the end of June.

We are currently projected to spend approximately \$2.6 million dollars while in the state of Pennsylvania.

Taking advantage of a state tax credit was an essential element of our overall financing structure.

We initially planned to film Blue Valentine in New York State. However, in early February, the New York tax credit ran out of funding and we began to consider other nearby options, including Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Jersey.

After extensive scouting, the director felt that Northeast Pennsylvania was creatively the best fit for him. Furthermore, the Pennsylvania Film Commission was very helpful and made us feel confident that we would have a good experience working in your state.

Finally, the financiers ran the numbers based on how the PA tax credit would fit into the overall financing structure and gave us the go ahead to begin scouting & prep in the Scranton area.

How has your experience in filming in PA been? Would you return? Would you recommend it as a good location to others in the industry?

Our overall experience in Northeast Pennsylvania has been excellent. We were able to make very competitive deals for lodging, locations and food. The residents of our primary shooting locations, Scranton, Carbondale and Honesdale, have been a pleasure to deal with.

I got the sense that the local residents and business owners genuinely appreciated the influx of money and activity that our film generated, not only during production, but also on days off. I would absolutely recommend that other productions shoot in the Scranton area.

If Pennsylvania did not have a tax credit, we would not have ended up shooting in your state. As I previously mentioned, our financiers required a state tax incentive as part of the overall financing structure. Furthermore, they forced us to move some shoot days previously scheduled for New York City to Scranton, in order to maximize our Pennsylvania spend.

Given the precarious overall state of not only the economy, but the independent film business, tax credits such as Pennsylvania's have become very important to projects such as Blue Valentine.

Thank you for your time.

Alex Orlovsky