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December 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Malahat Nation's Proposed Film Studios Complex

On behalf of Economic Development Cowichan (EDC), I am writing in support of Malahat Nation's plans to build a film studio complex in Cowichan.

Location-based film activity in Cowichan contributes several million dollars to the regional economy each year. Location-based film liaison services are provided by the region's Film Coordinator, managed by EDC.

As the regional economic development function, EDC's work is guided by the Corporate Plan of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the EDC Strategic Plan (2018-2022). Action 2.5 of the EDC Strategic Plan identifies sector development goals related to film for the region, including: "*Work toward the development of permanent film production facilities and film services in the Cowichan Valley.*"

Malahat Nation's plans to build a film studio complex would act on this goal. The project would also act on needs identified in both the Cowichan Industrial Land Use Strategy (an acute shortage of industrial land), and the Cowichan Tech Strategy (investment attraction for tech companies, and the provision of tech training opportunities), helping to further diversify the regional economy.

At full scale, the initiative would become a major economic driver for the region related to foreign direct investment, employment, and apprenticeship/training opportunities.

EDC recognizes Malahat Nation's capacity in managing economic development projects at scale and is strong supportive of this initiative which represents a significant economic opportunity for the region.

Sincerely,

Barry O'Riordan, Manager
Economic Development Cowichan

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