

March 22, 2012

To the Saskatchewan Legislature:

My name is Kim Coates. I am an actor. I live in Los Angeles with my wife and two children. I have filmed over 50 movies. I was the youngest Macbeth at the Stratford Festival. I was the eighth Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* on Broadway. I currently star in the hit show *SONS OF ANARCHY* on FX, which is now in Canada. I could continue with my resume but I have more important things to say.

I was born in Saskatoon. I graduated from the U. of S. in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. I had performed in over 20 plays in a four year span at the university. My learning and the great teachers there propelled me to Toronto. There my career grew. Ironically, I have just completed 2 major motion pictures in Saskatoon back to back, *Ferocious*, and *Rufus*. My producer Anand Ramayya is from Saskatoon and was professional and inspiring to work with. I cannot tell you the excitement of being in both of these films. The crew was amazing, and the sense of doing something so amazing in SASK. was palpable. It seemed the future was going to be creative and energetic and successful for both the artists and politicians of this great province.

This morning I woke up to the news of what the government of Sask. is planning to do with the tax credits. Not only is this a mistake of huge proportions, but it is an attack on the Arts. Sask. has never been in a better position to support the arts. The province is the most profitable in the country. Please, do not let this happen. The domino effect this would have on people who currently live in Sask. would be unprecedented.

Susanne Bell, the province's fearless leader, and her entire staff would be out of a job. This cannot happen. Every single province has a tax credit of some percent to support the thriving of the culture and

artists. I have been told the Sask. government has spent somewhere around 100 million dollars over the past decade on tax credits for the arts. I also have been told that over the past decade productions have brought back over 600 million dollars into the Sask. economy. Can you imagine what will happen to our beautiful province if that two-way pipeline is cancelled. We cannot let that happen.

Thank you for your time.
Mr. Kim Coates