

April 10, 2023

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Taxation

Re: LD 1075 An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives

My name is Jim Boutin. I am a resident of Hollis Maine. I currently work as a natural history and documentary camera person and have spent a large portion of my career providing technology for the film industry. I support the passage of LD 1075.

As reported by the Maine Film Association in conjunction with Dr. Todd Gabe of the University of Maine the current film production business in the state contributes \$64 million to the local economy. This legislation gives us the ability to energize this nascent Maine industry and invest in an environmentally clean, growth oriented sector. Films using Maine as a location are opportunities to market the state's beautiful scenery and its people, further promoting the tourism industry.

The state currently has feeder institutions that are training young people. Southern Maine Community College, University of Southern Maine, Maine College of Art and others offer courses and degrees in related fields. Efforts like the Roux Institute could also invest in the quickly advancing visual technology that now drives the film business. Stimulating a strong film production economy will help keep our young educated here in the state.

There are currently many national and international level actors, producers, production staff and post production skilled individuals that have chosen to live in Maine for lifestyle reasons. Their work currently takes them out of the state. Building a strong and well-funded production environment would allow them to work in state bolstering our local capabilities. Additionally they would serve as mentors to local student and graduates helping to further build the industry.

The film production industry is changing quickly. The migration of content to streaming providers has created a surge in quality smaller budget productions. Maine could easily capitalize in this growth area by offering appropriate film incentives. This current bill is well targeted to stimulate growth in this area and bring production investments into the state.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony. I hope you will consider voting an "Ought to Pass" on this legislation.

Jim Boutin

Hollis, ME