

Lucas StClair
Falmouth
LD 1075

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

I am writing in support of LD 1075 “An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives.”

Maine is currently exploring new ways to diversify and modernize its economy, as outlined in the Governor’s 10-Year Development Strategy. One of the simplest, and often most overlooked ways is through the growth of local film and media making.

First and foremost, Maine is the most beautiful place to set a film. Its landscapes, natural resources, and people make the state the perfect backdrop and even character in films. Maine has also been host to some of the most compelling stories and hosts some of the most interesting and well known writers and filmmakers who long to set their films here.

Film, television and media making is a low carbon footprint, value-added industry that straddles a wide variety of sectors, including tourism, construction, food & hospitality and tech, to name a few. There are upwards of 150 to 200 jobs available on a movie set, for example, a number of them entry level. This can be exciting, enticing, and sometimes high-paying work with benefits. These are jobs that could be occupied by Mainers, whether they be seasonal workers looking to supplement their income, or recent college graduates embarking on a new career. Productions also rely on local vendors for a variety of needs, sometimes for months at a time. In fact, a visual media production could be considered a temporary, independent small business, pumping money into the surrounding economy and offering employment opportunities.

Maine’s current incentive program is considered one of the least successful in the country. LD 1075 proposes increasing those incentives, making the state more competitive, accelerating the growth of the industry, and opening up new avenues of investment. LD 1075 also builds in a number of new protections that would ensure keeping the most dollars in state, expand ROI, and narrow the focus on putting Mainers to work.

Please vote “Ought to Pass” when considering LD 1075. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucas St. Clair Falmouth, Maine