



One Canal Plaza, Suite 500
Portland, ME 04101

April 11, 2023

Taxation Committee
Maine State Legislature

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

To whom it may concern:

My name is Drew Sigfridson. I am a Senior Partner at The Boulos Company, a full-service commercial real estate company in Northern New England. I am also a board member with Maine & Company and have been involved in commercial real estate development and economic development in Maine since 1999. I am writing today to express my support for LD 1075.

I have had the pleasure of developing business relationships and friendships with people within the film industry who have relocated to Maine and are looking to grow the film industry's presence in our State. These individuals, namely Xander Berkeley, Sarah Clarke, Molly Connors of Phippen Studios, Matthew Delameter (homegrown talent), among many others, have demonstrated a sincere interest and willingness to invest in Maine, focus their businesses here and they are striving to bring more filmmaking to the State of Maine. There is sincere interest in doing projects here, but unfortunately the tax incentives in other states put Maine at a competitive disadvantage and we don't get the business.

This proposed legislation would help level the playing field and put Maine on the map for attracting (and retaining) high paying, creative, artistic jobs in Maine. We have a talented tailor-made workforce in our arts and design colleges, our technical schools and carpentry programs for set design and construction, and the most magical natural back drop opportunities everywhere you look. Personally, I have witnessed Sarah and Xander's appreciation for old architecture as they have renovated and restored many buildings in rural Western Maine that were falling into disrepair. From a preservation perspective, there are so many opportunities (and desperate need) for investment in rural towns that could benefit from a new perspective and revitalized use that a film and media presence could provide.

In addition, this proposal aligns with the State's current economic plan which aims to diversify Maine's economy, attract and retain young talent to stay in our State and to modernize Maine's economy in a diversity of industries. We are very fortunate to have so many people who love our State and want to help improve our economy. If we can provide this industry with the tools to work here, the overall economic impact and tax-generation will be significant for years to come. When considering this opportunity for the State of Maine, I think we should ask ourselves: How many more Steven King movies set in Maine should be filmed in Massachusetts or Connecticut?

Thank you for your consideration.

Drew Sigfridson