

Kane-Lewis Productions

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Maine State Legislature
Taxation Committee

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

Dear Committee:

I'm Richard Kane, film producer in Sedgwick, Maine. I served for ten years as the chair of the Maine Film Association and have produced a series of films about Maine artists called **MAINE MASTERS** sponsored by the Union of Maine Visual Artists and broadcast on Maine Public. Our latest film, **TRUTH TELLERS**, will be seen on Public Television stations nationwide in 2024.

I am writing in support of increasing the tax incentives awarded to film productions to help kickstart this potentially lucrative industry in Maine. As an industry, we have struggled to keep our young people at home who flee to other industry locations like Massachusetts, California, Louisiana, Georgia, and New York where they can make a decent living due to those states film tax incentives. They can't do so in Maine in spite of the fact that we boast some of the most beautiful coastline, forests and mountains. My son Jacob Kane has been living in Brooklyn, NY for ten years, carrying on a successful career as a dolly grip. More than anything he would love to live in Maine but cannot make a living here. He worked on Martin Scorsese's **Shutter Island** in Acadia National Park. But not since then did Scorsese produce in Maine. Jacob continues to work with him and many others in New York.

Jonathan Frakes, a highly successful actor and director of the Star Trek series, lived in Belfast, Maine, but couldn't stay here as the industry was attracted to those states with tax incentives.

Once tax incentives are established in a state, the film business grows. However it is not only the film workers, it is all the ancillary businesses that thrive: hardware stores, hotels, restaurants, boat and car rental agencies, so many more businesses generating economic activity that in turn produces more tax revenue.

Although we recognize that there are other ways a legislature can attract business to its state, "it is hard to ignore the success a state like Georgia has had in attracting new film projects with a tax credit program estimated to cost over \$1 billion in fiscal year 2023," National Conference of State Legislatures reported.

Sincerely,

Richard Kane