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Maine State House

ATTN: Committee on Taxation

c/o Legislative Information Office
Clerk, Benjamin Berry

Dear Taxation Committee Members,

I believe that increasing the incentives for making film and media in our state would help not only local filmmakers like myself, but also the communities we serve and are a part of. My creative partner and I aim to tell the stories of our community from a local perspective, but it can be challenging when the groups who most need their voices amplified don't have the funds to support professional filmmaking. We work with one local nonprofit in particular who has an amazing potential to help the community heal, recover from trauma, and overcome the hardships of poverty and addiction, but they are struggling to find grant funding to tell their stories. We are currently volunteering our time for them because their story is so worth sharing. There are other stories which don't have any client attached at all, but that we would love to tell as an independent documentary if we can find a way to make that work financially. We aren't looking to get rich, but just to support our families while doing meaningful work that serves our communities. Any support for local filmmaking that your committee could provide would make the economics of that endeavor more manageable for us, and would have benefits that ripple throughout the state.

Respectfully,
Katie Giddings
Waldo, ME