

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

My name is Geoffrey Leighton and I have been a filmmaker and media producer for over forty years. I am also proud to say that I am a thirteenth generation Mainer and deeply appreciate Maine's commitment to innovation and economic development. For that reason, I am testifying in favor of LD 1075: An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives.

Over the past five years the media production industry has drastically changed, opening opportunities to many more media producers in our state. The bill that is before you acknowledges these changes by emphasizing the nurturing of a home grown media production community that will not only provide clean, well paying jobs, but will also raise Maine's profile on the national stage.

Maine currently has a vibrant film community with an outsized imprint for a state our size and the proposed LD1075 will help us grow by:

**Lower Production Costs:** Tax incentives can directly lower the cost of production for local filmmakers. This could come in the form of tax credits, rebates, or exemptions on expenditures related to film production, such as equipment rental, location fees, and labor costs. With reduced financial pressure, local filmmakers can allocate resources more effectively, potentially increasing the production value of their projects or enabling them to undertake more ambitious projects.

**Access to Financing:** Tax incentives can make it easier for local filmmakers to secure financing for their projects. Investors may be more inclined to fund films that can benefit from tax incentives, as the potential return on investment is higher when production costs are effectively subsidized by the government. This can lead to an increase in the number and quality of locally produced films.

**Industry Growth:** By making the state a more attractive location for film production, tax incentives can stimulate growth in the local film industry. This growth can lead to more opportunities for local filmmakers, including collaborations with out-of-state productions that bring additional expertise and resources to Maine. An expanded industry can also support a wider range of services and specialties, offering local filmmakers more options for post-production, special effects, and other technical aspects of filmmaking.

**Skills Development and Talent Retention:** With more productions taking place in Maine, local filmmakers and crew members have more opportunities to work, learn, and develop their skills. This can lead to a more skilled workforce within the state, enhancing the quality of local productions. Additionally, attractive production conditions can help retain talent within the state, preventing the outflow of filmmakers and technical professionals to more established film production centers.

**Networking and Collaboration Opportunities:** An increase in film production activity can foster a vibrant local film community, providing more opportunities for networking and collaboration among filmmakers, actors, writers, and other industry professionals. This can lead to more innovative and diverse film projects, as well as partnerships that can leverage shared resources and expertise.

**Cultural Representation and Diversity:** Local filmmakers often tell stories that reflect the unique culture, history, and landscapes of their region. Tax incentives that support local filmmakers can enrich the cultural tapestry by ensuring that these local stories are told and seen, both within Maine and beyond its borders.

I believe that LD1075 will grow our media production community and will encourage the opportunity for local filmmakers to tell the many stories of Maine.

Geoffrey Leighton  
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