

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."

One of the simplest, and often most overlooked ways to diversify and modernize our local economy is through the growth of local film and media making. Maine's current incentive program is considered one of the least successful in the country, despite being home to thousands of filmmakers, artists and performers. LD 1075 proposes increasing those incentives, opening up new avenues of investment. LD 1075 also builds in a number of new protectionism that would ensure keeping the most dollars in state and narrow the focus on putting Mainers to work.

On a personal note, I can say with great certainty that this incentive program would change my life. It's an enormous struggle to make a living as an actor and writer, but it's especially difficult when the local market is so small. Having the ability to work in my field, in the state of my residence, is a small dream that should be far more achievable than it is currently. There is a deep desire to shift from commercial to narrative film in Maine. Countless industry professionals would easily come together if there were a financial benefit to creating content here. Not only would it draw the business of studios and crews from across the country, it would be a green light for countless profitable collaborations within our own community. The film industry is forever growing; it would be foolish to ignore this investment in our future. Please don't let another state reap the rewards of what could easily thrive here.

Vote "Ought to Pass" when considering LD 1075. Thank you.

Warmly,

Rebecca Gift