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Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Corey Norman, and for the past fourteen years I've served as a professor in the Communications and New Media department at Southern Maine Community College, where I specialize in filmmaking. I also serve on the Maine Film Commission.

This is not my first time testifying to the taxation committee on the benefits of film incentives for our state, and I will continue to do so again and again until we take the steps necessary to keep our graduates employed here in Maine.

Youth in flight is a very real problem. After graduation, a large majority of our graduates leave Maine as they seek work in Georgia, New York, Massachusetts and other states with competitive film incentives. Quite simply put, film incentives mean work, and without a competitive incentive here in Maine, we're destined to repeat this process year after year.

Currently, the state of Maine offers free college tuition for recent high school graduates. During this initiative, our department has grown to be one of the largest at SMCC with an increase of over 300% to our enrollment. So I ask you this; if you're investing in the education of these young people, why not let that directly benefit Maine by helping them live and work here after graduation.