

February 4th 2024

Matthew Delamater
535 S Bridgton Rd.
Bridgton ME 04009

RE: Film Tax Incentive Bill LD 1075
Public Hearing Written Testimony Submission

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Matthew Delamater and I'm writing to humbly request your support of LD 1075 and the bill to offer greater incentives for film production in Maine.


I'm a lifelong Maine resident, business owner and for over the last 15 years, have had the privilege of being a professional actor living in Maine. I have worked in various network television productions, larger studio and independent film productions as well as commercial production in my career and I have seen first hand the benefits that such an industry has to offer the communities in which it operates within. If you had told me, however, years ago that I would be working as a professional actor while also living in this great state that I've loved my whole life, I most likely would have thought you were crazy.

Growing up, and I'm sure for most folks living in rural areas, the world of TV and Movies seemed to only exist in far off places like New York City or LA. That was because, for the most part, they were. In fact, if it were not for a state film tax incentive bill and the subsequent film productions that followed in its wake, I would still most likely feel that way today. With very few exceptions, the vast majority of my film and television projects have been produced outside of our state. In fact if it were not for Massachusetts' own incentive bill, I would most likely not be an actor today. That bill created the opportunities that have manifested into what is often referred to as one of the more robust film industries in the country. It is also what I believe can happen here in Maine with LD 1075. The great news is that this bill goes even further in many ways as these other states, as it's been able to adapt from the lessons learned from these other incentives, and fits Maine's needs well in my view. I believe it could make our state one of the more popular places to live AND make films & film productions. And what a boon that would be to retaining our young, talented students, preserving and highlighting our natural and historical beauty as well as providing a tremendous economic opportunity across the state - in rural and well populated areas alike.

In closing, I fully admit that as an actor who is from Maine and who would LOVE the chance to do this incredible work in my own state, I hold some bias in my opinion. However, I believe strongly in the benefits of this industry and feel it meets the needs of a modern world well both in terms of economic and creative aspirations. I don't believe that this bias overshadows the truth that making films about Maine, in Maine, and all the jobs, money and growth potential that this industry has been proven to bring would be amazing for this state. I believe that more people like me, who would love to remain in the state they love and identity with, could thrive in this industry and have a real path to sticking around and enjoying a career that both supports them and this great place we all love. I know many parents in Maine that would love that, and would love that myself for my own children. Lastly, I think of my nephew, going to school today at community college in Maine, for Film, who dreams of being able to do the same. What a thing it would be if he could graduate and stay in Maine, building a creative passion, giving him (as well as so many more) the opportunity to stay, to create, and make a life here in this industry. It's an amazing dream in my view and something that could be a reality with the support of this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for your consideration in supporting LD 1075. I appreciate all of your time and efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Delamater', followed by a stylized star symbol.

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