

Jamie Gagnon
Bangor
LD 1957

Senator Smith, Representative Jones, and members of the committee, my name is Jamie Gagnon, and I'm a filmmaker in support of bill LD 1957, An Act to Promote Film Production in Maine.

My writing partner and I are directing a feature film road trip comedy to shoot ENTIRELY in Maine next year. We're raising the funds now and aim to shoot by July 2026. So yes, this new proposed bill would benefit our production directly, and yes, the State has seen numerous bills before but I'm going to tell you why this bill matters to everyone.

Far too often films set in Maine are shot in Massachusetts or Canada, and that's just not fair to the hard-working people of Maine. Our film will be shot exclusively in the Greater Bangor Area, and for once, will flip the script and shoot Maine for the OTHER states the characters travel through.

Maine deserves films that not only employ as many Mainers as possible, but also funnel much-needed money to the surrounding businesses of the town in which they shoot. Restaurants, hotels, lumber yards for building materials, local stores for props, production design, & costumes, and gift shops and events for cast & crew to enjoy when they're off. All of this, and so much more, would see an influx of revenue during the production.

But what about after the cameras are done rolling? What can this bill do for Maine then? Well, the Maine Film Office is a division of the Maine Office of Tourism, and many of these new films made in Maine will gain fans and followers. These fans will flock to the shooting locations to see where the film was shot, spending even more money in the area. And the more films we shoot in Maine, the more often this will happen. This can rejuvenate tourism in new & exciting ways the state has never before seen.

This bill's proportions are perfect too as it balances the scale of productions that would want to shoot in Maine. Independent filmmakers – Mainers and Maine fans alike – will shoot their smaller productions to display their love of the Pine Tree State, while larger production companies wouldn't as often. This will keep Maine as a viable option while still also competitive amongst the other states and Canada.

We are on the precipice of something truly extraordinary for Maine and its people. So, let's vote to approve this bill to keep the creative Mainers working in the state they love. Thank you for your time. I yield my time to the committee.