

May 12th, 2025

To: Members of the Joint Committee of Taxation

Re: LD 1957 An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives

My name is Bodhi Ouellette. I am a resident of South Portland, Maine, and I work in the film industry as a Cinematographer, Camera Assistant, Videographer, and listed on the IATSE Local 481's Overhire list as an Electrician, and an Overhire member of Local 114 Stagehand Union. I support the passage of LD 1957.

Maine's industry has steadily grown within the last five to ten years, since I began working in the area in the summer of 2018, and unfortunately, the work that has come into our state hasn't yet caught up with the ever growing workforce of filmmakers who have chosen to make Maine their home. Rather, I and many others, have sought to seek work outside of the state, primarily to Massachusetts, where the industry has flourished with countless high budget television shows and blockbusters, and Academy Award winning films who chose to shoot their films in that state. And while there have been many documentary, or reality shows that have shot in this state, such as *Maine Cabin Masters*, or *The Lost Kitchen*, those usually have much smaller crews attached to them, and many times, crew that are hired out of state to work these one-to-two day or longer shows.

There is a bustling community of like minded filmmakers of various kinds, all wanting to be able to build their career here in this state, and make it a viable and long lasting career they can comfortably work from. While many of us are scrappy, and have managed to make it by with the work that has come into the states, many others, myself included, have had to get secondary jobs to supplement income when the seasons get slow. Although the resources of what we can offer in state, to potential productions might be small, we can grow and set up business with special production needs and support to make it enticing, such as camera rental houses, prop houses, etc.

I have lived in Maine my whole life, and I've always had the ambition to enter this industry that I fell in love with as a child. And I want to stay and keep contributing with this strong community of talented and passionate individuals and collaborators who are the reason why this industry in Maine is as strong as it is, and fuels its ever continuing growth. But we need help to bring more work and business to come to this amazing state.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this testimonial. I hope through mine, and many other voices shared that you will consider voting "Ought to Pass" on this legislation.

Bodhi T. Ouellette

South Portland, ME