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To whom it may concern. My husband and I have been working in the entertainment industry for nearly 20 years. We moved to Maine in September of 2020 after having lived in Los Angeles and New York respectively for nearly all of our time in the business. As someone who grew up in a small town in the south, I only wish our state had incentivised production to come to our state. You cannot take part in something and you cannot offer it to people if you cannot show it to them as a possibility.

I only lucked into entertainment in college, far away from my small town. And I never went back to my small town. Not because I didn't love it there, but because there were no opportunities in the field.

Eliminating the incentive system is a step in the wrong direction. I'm shocked that this is being proposed. Incentives are a massive consideration when deciding where to shoot and regularly bring money into a place in all kinds of ways that in fact do have trickle down effects for citizens at all ages.

For the next generation, the visibility of an industry that provides many avenues for long term stable job opportunities with competitive salaries and ways to stay in Maine rather than leave.

For those who have seen disused factories and decommissioned spaces sit vacant in their small towns, think of what repurposing just a handful of those places to studios, locations, offices, even onsite learning coupled with university programs could do for a community - with need for all the basics that an influx of labor asks for.

Having been a studio executive for the majority of my time in the business, tax incentive is a large part of the consideration when picking a location. There is no idea that we "spend less." It's that we'll just not come. We'll make a show in Halifax (which I've done) instead of Maine. Why abolish something that is a positive signifier to an industry that's also in the middle of a contraction at the moment?

When I moved to Maine, I had a vague idea of the strength of the creative community. Now, five years on, each storyteller I meet confirms one thing for me - Maine should have a bigger voice in entertainment. It seems counter to what the state stands for to have our geographic neighbours approximate Maine in look and feel. And to not help jobs and income come to Mainers.

To be clear, I don't benefit from the current system at all. I have in fact been hired for a job away from the place I love the most because there's not enough of an infrastructure in the state. But that does not mean we do not want the infrastructure. Please do not dismantle this. For the sake of the next generation.