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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.

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.

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.

The promotion of film production also gives an opportunity for the Mainer entertainers to use their networks to further encourage establishment of long term opportunities for Maine residents that benefit local businesses just as much if not more than it may help the bottom line of the film production.

Surely, the hope in enacting legislature is to not only to signify but also to solidify. Signify the openness to positive change, and solidify a future with more opportunities for the younger and next generations. Film production is one area that is pro-business but also pro-individual. It's not just big business. It's not just wealthy individuals. The myriad jobs available in film production prove this. From entry level to the highest salary. There are jobs to be done in film production that many Mainers are already doing and could potentially receive higher salaries if more production were to come to our state.

I hope that many speak on the possibilities today, and hope I can at some point soon look for a job in this state that I love, in a career only made possible by my going to school in a town that supported the industry.

We need to support the state and the next generation.