

Good afternoon, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Henry Cline, I live in Cumberland and I'm here to express my full support for LD 1957. I've lived in Maine for the past five years, and have worked in the film industry for over 40 years—primarily based in Los Angeles. I'm also a proud member of the International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600.

In all my years in the industry, I've seen firsthand how state-based film tax incentives can transform local economies. The benefits go far beyond the immediate film crew. When a production shoots in a community, there's a ripple effect—hotels fill up, restaurants stay busy, local electricians and construction workers, hospitality workers get hired, and communities get national exposure that leads to increased tourism.

Film and TV production can bring fresh energy and income to towns and cities across Maine. And perhaps most importantly, it gives people a reason to come here—to experience this amazing state that we all love.

Having worked in several states with active incentive programs, I can tell you that I have never seen a downside. These programs often start modestly, and due to their success, are renewed and expanded. They work and Maine could use them.

As a resident and a professional, I would love the opportunity to work in the state I call home. In five years, I have not had a single paid day of work here. A tax incentive like LD 1957 would change that—for me, and for many others in this industry.

Finally, with current concerns about a potential drop in Canadian tourism, supporting this bill becomes even more prudent. It's a smart, strategic investment in Maine's creative economy. Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony in support of LD 1957.

Henry Cline
Cumberland
LD 1493

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