

Suzi Pond
Redbird Media Group
LD 1957

My name is Suzi Pond and I am the Founder of Redbird Media Group, a video production B Corp based in Freeport. For over 10 years, we have focused on helping to tell the stories of positive social and environmental impact in our community and the State. I am writing in favor of LD1957 An Act to Promote Film Production in Maine and against LD1493 An Act to Eliminate Tax and Wage Incentives for Visual Media Production Companies.

For the last ten years I, along with my many colleagues in the industry, have worked to continue to build and establish Maine's creative film industry. From social media to the big screen – we create local jobs for hardworking Mainers. Jobs that put food on our tables and pay our medical bills. LOCAL jobs. To deny eligibility to any reimbursement / tax programs simply because the work features non-profits trying to raise money, sell a locally-made product or empower a corporate team makes zero sense. Are those not local tax dollars returning to our economy?

Sixty-three percent of the organizations we work with serve individuals with low or very low income. Fifty percent of the organizations we work with serve children between the ages of 5-18. Collaboration with area organizations have allowed us to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars back into Maine's creative economy over the years.

Maine's film industry has so much talent to offer the world. Please serve as an ally to small businesses not an impediment. Please vote to pass LD1957 and vote ought not to pass LD1493.

Suzi Pond, Owner / Founder, Redbird Media Group - Freeport Maine