

Berry, Benjamin

From: Louise Rosen <lrosenltd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:58 AM
To: TAX
Subject: Statement in support of LD 1075

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Committee on Taxation
c/o Legislative Information Office
Clerk, Benjamin Berry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
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Statement in support of LD 1075

I began work in the film world as the Director of International Sales and Coproductions at WGBH Boston, the largest producing station in the PBS system. I've had my own business raising finance for and distributing films for over thirty years, at different times based in Boston, Los Angeles, and London, and for the last almost eighteen years, in Brunswick, Maine. I came here originally because my father had retired here, and I wanted to be nearby.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Maine Film Association and Chair the Advocacy Committee. I've also served on the Boards of Women In Film & Video/New England, the Maine Media Workshops, and the Camden International Film Festival. I tutor filmmakers in international training programs, am a speaker and moderator on panels and at conferences, and have been involved with Oscar and Emmy Award-winning films, and films that have been selected for the world's most important film festivals, such as Sundance, Berlin, and Toronto.

From all these perspectives, I am able to form a professional opinion about the role that improved tax incentives could play in further developing Maine's media-making sector. Maine has produced a wealth of aspiring media-making talent, but as much as they would like to, the limited opportunity here means they are unable to advance their careers within the state. Maine's quality of life has attracted a wealth of talent, but many have to work elsewhere. Even if they are enhanced to the levels proposed in the new legislation, Maine's incentives won't compete dollar-for-dollar with the aggressive programs offered in some other states. But a combination of improved incentives, Maine's many unique qualities, and an expanding community of media professionals can nonetheless attract productions that would bring benefit to the state in many forms. This would include the economic multiplier impact across many business sectors, the opportunities for aspiring talent, and more consistent work at home for locally-based high-level professionals. Improved incentives would be a boon for Maine.

Please refer to the Maine Film Association's Economic Impact Survey conducted by Professor Todd Gabe at the University of Maine. Better incentives could significantly boost the 2019 local impact of \$64.3 million from an industry that globally is expected to reach \$2,371.64 billion in 2023 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.0%.

Thank you in advance for supporting LD 1075.

Sincerely,

Louise Rosen

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From the land of the Wabanaki Confederacy

