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RICARDO LORENZO

Filmmaker + Producer

April 13, 2023

Maine State House
ATTN: Taxation Committee
210 State Street
Augusta, ME

Testimony in support of LD1075.

My name is Ricardo Lorenzo, I am a local filmmaker with a production company based in Portland, ME. I'm also a community outreach volunteer for the Maine Film Association, a non-profit dedicated to advancing the art, craft, and business of filmmaking in Maine.

This letter submitted to you today is to show my support for the increased tax incentive in Maine. I believe LD1075 would be great for our economy and would help provide extensive job opportunities for Mainers.

I am originally from New Jersey. Having much experience working on and off sets in the state and in NYC, I've seen first hand how the tax incentives are beneficial to each state. It has been extremely crucial in building a thriving economy, too. I think Maine has a budding film industry and I've had the pleasure of working with and building friendships with local filmmakers who thrive on growing the film industry in Maine.

I moved to Portland because I really admired the local aspect of it and I'm learning the entire state of Maine works this way. As a filmmaker, I've always pushed for keeping every aspect of my productions local to the community. These intersecting ideologies are exactly why I moved to Maine.

The film industry is one of the most collaborative industries. It also tends to bring in a vast amount of jobs for local businesses through those collaborations. Not only from those you see on set; but these jobs stem from your local carpenters, who build the sets, to your local restaurants who cater the food, to your local theaters, who host the screenings.

It's always such a pain point to see extremely talented local artists/entrepreneurs leave their home states for better opportunities. As Mainers, wouldn't you rather be the home for these up and coming stars than push out the opportunities and cheer from a distance? Who wouldn't want an eager Brad Pitt coming to town starring alongside the talented Matthew Delamater for a movie produced and directed by a Mainer? I know as a Mainer, I'd rather see that in my home town, than have to go to LA for that opportunity.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Ricardo Lorenzo

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Portland, Maine