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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 6, 2023

Senator Grohoski, Chair
Representative Perry, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
State House, Room 127

Re: *LD 1075 An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives.*

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:

My name is Daniel Stevenson. I am the Economic Development Director for the City of Westbrook and am in support of *LD 1075 An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives.*

I have worked in the field of economic and community development, for more than two decades, both at the State and municipal levels and have extensive knowledge and expertise in public finance including tax incentive programs. As a Maine economic development practitioner, I am intimately familiar with economic and community issues affecting municipalities throughout the State of Maine. It is in this light that I attest that Maine has very few incentive tools to keep us competitive in the marketplace. The growth of film and local media making is a statewide investment in an untapped and growing industry.

Maine's existing film incentive program is weak and outdated. LD 1075 is realistic, straightforward, and necessary to remain competitive in film, television and media making in the 21st century. This allows more money to stay in local and regional economies, accelerates the growth of the industry, and opens new avenues for industry growth.

LD 1075 has been well vetted, overdue for change, and voting ought to pass makes sense.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel B. Stevenson
City of Westbrook
Economic Development Director