

Maine Film Association

February 28, 2022

Ms. Karen Carberry Warhola, Director
Maine Film Office
59 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD1334, Amended

Board of Directors

Emma Gregg, President
Jim Boutin, Treasurer
Casey Turner, Secretary
Patrick Bonsant
John Fireman
Christian Kayitshonga
Geoffrey Leighton
Louise Rosen
Matthew Siegel
Kyle Walton

Dear Ms. Carberry Warhola,

Following the recent presentation of the amended version of LD1334, originally intended for a vote during the last session of the Maine Legislature, the Board of Directors of the Maine Film Association (MFA) met to review the status of this legislation.

LD 1334 was originally drafted with significant input from Erik Van Wyck and his colleagues at Picture Maine. After it was tabled in the last legislative session, the proposed amended legislative document was extensively revised without input from Picture Maine or in consultation with Maine's media-making community and its major stakeholders. The proposed changes and language revisions were done with input from you as the representative of the Maine Film Office along with the sponsoring legislators and certain other state employees. These revisions were not informed by real-world knowledge or experience. They do not serve our Maine media-making industry. And furthermore, they do virtually nothing to enhance Maine's ability to attract outside feature film, episodic, advertising, corporate, and/or documentary media production.

With the budget surplus available to the state, we are at a time when a properly drafted film and media legislative effort such as LD 1334 would have its best possible opportunity to receive genuine long-term, substantive support. However, the legislation must be based on data, must be appropriate to the state's media-making community, must have enough merit and incentive to be used by media-makers within the state and beyond, and must be able to succeed and prove to be sustainable.

Given the revised LD 1334 in its current iteration has no merit to bolster the creative and economic goals of Maine's media community, the MFA Board of Directors fully supports Representative Salisbury's vote ONTP. Your revised version of LD 1334 fails to address the needs of the local media community, fails to provide any genuine incentive for out-of-state productions, and fails completely to recognize the current modes, methods, budgets, and technology of media creation.

The Maine Film Office as it is currently organized and implemented does not in any way represent Maine's media-making community, and as demonstrated by its butchery of the LD 1334, lacks the industry expertise necessary to do so.

The board of the Maine Film Association finds that the goals and actions of the Maine Film Office do not align with the goals and stated mission of the Maine Film Association.

*The Maine Film Association advances the art, craft, and business of filmmaking in Maine.
Our vision is to make Maine a great place to live and work as a filmmaker.*

The board of directors has determined that it can no longer associate our organization through the acceptance and public display of the Maine Film Office sponsorship. Enclosed you will find a check to the Treasurer of the State of Maine returning the sponsorship fee. All logos from the Maine Film Office have been removed from our website and public materials.

Our recent economic impact survey indicates Maine's own film/media-making industry produced \$35 million in revenue in 2019. We look forward to working with legislators to craft an appropriate amendment, worthy of the talented and dynamic community we represent, an amendment that can encourage the further growth of our industry and truly benefit the great state of Maine.

Sincerely,

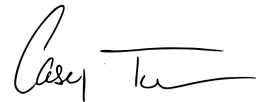
The Maine Film Association Board of Directors



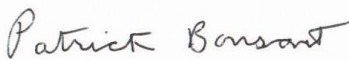
Emma Gregg, President
P3, Saco



Jim Boutin, Treasurer
Big Rock Film, Hollis



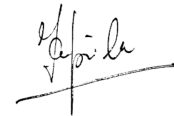
Casey Turner, Secretary
Voice/Actor/Producer, Portland



Patrick Bonsant
Saco River Community Television,
Westbrook



John Fireman
Maine College of Art, Peaks Island



Christian Kayitshonga
Red Bird Media, Freeport



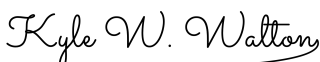
Geoffrey Leighton
Leighton Images, Litchfield



Louise Rosen
Louise Rosen Ltd., Brunswick



Matthew Siegel
Imageworks LA, Camden



Kyle Walton
Multimedia Producer, Belfast

CC:

Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Westbrook

Senator Ben Chipman, Cumberland

Senator Mattie Daughtry, Cumberland

Senator Donna Bailey, York

Representative Amy Roeder, Maine State Representative, Bangor

Representative Maureen Terry, Gorham

Representative Bruce White, Waterville

Representative Lynne Williams, Bar Harbor

Senator Matthew Pouliot, Kennebec

Governor Janet Mills

Steve Lyons, Director, Maine Office of Tourism

Heather Johnson, Commissioner, Department of Economic & Community Development

Hannah Pingree, Director, Office of Policy Innovation & the Future

Maria Povic, Senior Policy Analyst for Workforce & Education, Office of Policy Innovation & the Future

Kate Foye, Legislative Affairs & Communications, Department of Economic & Community Development

Kerstin Gilg, Director of Grants & Accessibility, Maine Arts Commission

David Greenham, Executive Director, Maine Arts Commission

***Note - we would like to include all those appointed to the Maine Film Commission except that information does not appear to be publicly available.*