

Michael Gentile
Scarborough, Home Owner
LD 1893

Hello

I am a homeowner in Scarborough, Maine

My family has been coming to Maine every year since 1947 and renting a vacation home for 2 weeks each year

I'm writing to object to

LD 1893, An Act to Allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-term Rentals for the Benefit of That Municipality is sponsored by Rep. Tiffany Strout (R-Harrington).

In recent years the costs of vacationing in Maine have dramatically increased causing many of my friends and family members to choose to vacation elsewhere. Increasing taxes on vacation rentals will only further deter future vacationers from coming to Maine.

Tourism lodging brought in over \$1 Billion in lodging/sales tax in 2022 (according to the Maine Office of Tourism).

The tax rate of 9% is competitive with other New England States. Guests who are paying this 9% are contributing to our economy in many ways beyond the \$1 Billion of lodging tax. When my family vacations in Maine we shop, go to restaurants and entertainment venues.

With the advent of Air BNB and other options vacationers have so many choices on where to vacation don't harm a vital contributor to the Maine economy by a short sighted grab for a few extra tax dollars and kill the golden goose (vacation industry) that brings so much value to the state of Maine