



# Maine Professional Guides Association

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## Testimony in Opposition to LD 1893

### An Act to Allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-term Rentals for the Benefit of That Municipality

January 23, 2024

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association in opposition to LD 1893.

The Maine Professional Guides Association represents approximately 1,000 licensed guides in Maine who lead guests on outdoor adventures ranging from paddle board yoga to bear hunting. We represent hundreds of members who own lodging establishments that could be impacted negatively by this legislation.

LD 1893 lacks key details and protections that should be addressed before any new fees are established or increased. As an example of this, this legislation does not seem to provide for any cap on the fees that a municipality could assess to a lodging establishment. Additionally, LD 1893 lacks a clear roadmap of how these funds would be used. We are extremely concerned that these fees could be used to offset budget shortfalls and pay for unrelated projects instead of managing and benefiting aspects of Maine's tourism economy.

These are just a couple of many concerns that our members have about this proposal to create new fees in an economic environment where fees are on the rise and costs for just about everything are already exceptionally burdensome. Nowhere is this more true than in rural areas of Maine where a significant number of our members businesses are located.

Given the short nature of this second legislative session, we urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 1893.

Thank you for your consideration.

*An organization of professional guides dedicated to promoting a quality, ethical outdoor experience.*