

Monique Borenstein
Bayley Vacation Rentals
LD 1893

I am writing to oppose LD 1893, 'An Act to allow a Municipality to Impose a Fee on Short-term Rentals for the Benefit of that Municipality'. I work for a small family-owned business, Bayley Vacation Rentals, and we have been doing short-term rentals in the Saco, Pine Point, and Old Orchard Beach areas for the last 6 years. COVID brought a lot of changes, especially to the short-term rental industry. Tourism and lodging have brought in large amounts of money to our communities and economy, with a taxation rate that is competitive with nearby states. Not only do the taxes help our economy, but guests are also supporting local businesses such as bars, restaurants, and other recreational places, creating a larger effect outside of the STR realm. In addition to the income, guests bring in, STRs provide many jobs to those in the area. Increasing costs for guests will be a detriment to our industry. Maine's economy relies on our seasonal tourism, there is a demand for STR and there always will be, increasing costs however will send people looking elsewhere. STRs are not the cause of the lack of affordable housing, and limiting or restricting STRs will hurt many of our citizens. This change doesn't need to go through, and this bill would allow municipalities to charge additional fees with no limit, hurting homeowners, professional property managers, and guests. Please vote no on this bill.