

Ruth Monsell  
Damariscotta  
LD 283

I have rented out my home in Damariscotta for part or most of each summer ever since I was widowed in 2012. It is a critical part of my income, enabling me to keep my home maintained and pay my ever- increasing property taxes.

I believe it would be very detrimental to this source of income were LD 283 passed, as it would negatively impact my very small cottage industry. If local taxes on meals, lodging go up 1% due to this redirection, Maine tourism, which is central to the economy of my small Damariscotta-Newcastle community would suffer. It already dropped within the past year by 9 percent. Tourists will choose another state if you further burden them, and the entire state will suffer. No more "Maine -- Vacationland!" Furthermore, I object that we are not being given community input on this taxation. I know that my bookings are at risk if you pass LD 283 and urge the state legislature to find other means of trimming and tightening the state budget. Thank you.