

Anna Durand  
Bar Harbor  
LD 471

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Anna Durand, I have been an innkeeper in Bar Harbor, Maine with my husband for 15 years. I have run several small businesses over the last 32 years including a bakery, a cafe, and a high-end catering company. I am very proud of the fact that many of my 75+ former employees have gone on to create their own small businesses, including several of Bar Harbor's most beloved.

I urge you to pass LD471. This pilot program will help small businesses like mine attract, hire, and keep employees as they will be provided with English skills that our businesses need. Maine's small businesses need every tool we can get to hire workers, and LD471 will offer them - and us - one more great tool.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer my thoughts about this bill.