

Ryan Edwards
Boothbay
LD 225

Testimony in Opposition to LD 225

Ryan Edwards, Owner, Five Gables Inn – Boothbay, Maine
March 12, 2025

Chairman Grohoski, Chairman Perry, and Members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Ryan Edwards, and I am the owner of the Five Gables Inn in Boothbay. As an investor from outside Maine, I chose to invest in this state because of its strong tourism economy and the opportunities it presents for small businesses like mine to thrive and expand. I am here today to voice my strong opposition to LD 225, which would increase the statewide lodging tax to 12%.

This proposed tax hike would have significant negative consequences for small hospitality businesses like mine. Higher lodging taxes directly impact occupancy rates by making Maine less competitive compared to other New England destinations. Visitors are price-sensitive, and an increase in lodging taxes will make Maine a less attractive option, leading to fewer bookings and lower overall tourism revenue.

Additionally, as a business owner looking to expand in the Maine tourism market, this increase would severely limit my ability to reinvest in my property, hire additional staff, and acquire new properties. Instead of fostering a climate that encourages investment, this tax hike signals to investors that Maine is becoming a more expensive and less business-friendly destination.

Maine's tourism industry is a critical economic driver, and independent inns and hotels play a key role in that success. The state should be supporting growth, not implementing measures that discourage visitors and hinder small businesses from expanding. I urge you to oppose LD 225 and instead focus on policies that strengthen Maine's tourism economy rather than burdening it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Edwards
Owner, FGI Realty – Boothbay, Maine