

Anna Durand
Bar Harbor
LD 746

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Honorable Members of the Joint Taxation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Anna Durand, I am an innkeeper in Bar Harbor and I urge you to pass LD 746.

My husband and I are actual Mom and Pop business owners: our four kids were raised in our three businesses starting with the Morning Glory Take-out and Cafe in 1992, the Morning Glory Bakery in 1996, and since 2010 we've owned and operated the Acacia House Inn. We've welcomed over 40,000 guests in those 15 years, and as many as one-third of them come back year after year. We especially enjoy making our Maine guests at home.

The hospitality industry in Bar Harbor takes pride in our skill set. We manage our 4 million annual visitors with care, from the big picture of town staff and volunteer Boards ironing out logistics and infrastructure, to the every-day of helping visitors get the highest quality experience they can in the Park and in town. We work hard and we generously contribute to our town through volunteer service, financial donations, and by participating in our year round economy.

LD 746 is a win-win waiting for you to set it in motion. Our energetic tourism model depends right now on the year round taxpayers - plenty of whom have no connection to tourism other than having to suffer the increased summer traffic. Critical infrastructure such as the sewer drain bond and road repair are huge tax dollar outlays and are disproportionately needed by tourism. A local options tax would help Bar Harbor send even more money to the state for desperately needed housing, and would bring home dollars to ease the tax burden on the year 'round residents.

As an innkeeper, I can promise you that none of my guests would balk at the increased tax, or even notice it. Sewer fee increases would cause me to raise my room rates, which they would notice. No tourists will avoid Bar Harbor because of an extra 4 dollars on a \$200.00 room. But those 4 dollars would add up to a significant savings for local taxpayers, and significant monies for the state as well.

I hope you will go ahead and launch this win-win scenario for Maine by letting us join the 47 other states that currently reap the benefits of local options sales tax on lodging.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today. I hope you will cheerfully and unanimously vote to pass LD 746.

Anna Durand, innkeeper
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