

Glen Tenan  
Lubec  
LD 151

My name is Glen Tenan and I own The Eastland Motel in Lubec. I'm writing this to respectfully request that you support LD 151 in an effort to help small businesses across the state stay open. Keeping our business afloat is a daily struggle. We are mindful and appreciative of every penny that comes to us, but holding on to those pennies is a challenge.

I employ 14 people and payroll is our largest expense. Following a close second is our income tax, property tax, sales and use tax at 9% and the astronomical credit card swipe fees that we collect, (and pay taxes on). Our average credit card fee pay out exceeds \$25,000 a year, but that money doesn't stay in our coffers. We send it to the billion dollar credit card companies so their customers can be rewarded for using them. And get taxed on it as income. Baffling to say the least.

I've been told these swipe fees are simply, "A cost of doing business". Electric, heating, mortgage payments, supplies, property and income taxes, and payroll are costs of doing business. Funds collected from credit cards to use as rewards for their credit card customers, are not a cost of doing business. They are a cost associated with business failure.

This is an example of credit card companies taking advantage of small business owners across the country and the State of Maine not standing up to these billion dollar entities and making them pay their own rewards for consumer use.

Maine is only one of four states that have been suckered in to making business owners pay the fee.

I sincerely applaud our senators and representatives (on both sides of the isle) for taking action in an effort to reverse the bill as they take steps to make Maine more business friendly.

I'm reaching out to encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Glen Tenan

Owner of The Eastland Motel in Lubec.