

Elizabeth Doyen
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LD 1181

My name is Elizabeth Doyen and I am a resident of Surry Maine. I presently operate a four room short term rental on property that my family has owned since 1928. Over the years we have had many many guests at our property. These guest have enjoyed visiting the Blue Hill, Peninsula and Acadia region. Most of them have patronized businesses in Surry and surrounding area, adding revenue to the local economy. Tourism in Maine is critical to the states economy. By having Airbnb and other short-term room rentals available, it provides more options at a generally lower cost than traditional hotels. Because of the greater availability and lower cost more tourist are able to enjoy the area.

The income generated from the AirBnB is very significant for my family. Without the rental income, I would be forced to sell the property because the property taxes would be too high for my budget. I believe many of the other short term rental owners in Surry are in the same situation regarding keeping the property and paying the taxes.

In conclusion, I believe there are many more positive than negative impacts to having short term rentals in the town.