

Rafal Subernat
Veazie
LD 1476

To:
Senator Nicole Grohoski
Representative Ann Matlack, House Chair
Representative Holly Cloutier
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
c/o Office of the Revisor of Statutes
State House, Augusta, ME

Re: Opposition to LD 1476 – Proposed \$2 Fee on Lodging Bookings

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1476, which proposes an additional \$2 fee per booking on hotels, short-term rentals, and RV campsites in Maine.

While I deeply respect the intent to fund critical programs such as those addressing homelessness, this bill places a disproportionate burden on one of Maine's most vital economic engines: tourism. The proposal targets small businesses and families who operate lodging properties — many of whom are still working to recover from the disruptions of recent years.

This is more than just a modest fee. It is a message to visitors that Maine is growing more expensive and less competitive. Our current lodging tax is already among the highest in the nation. Adding an extra charge, especially one funneled to the state with little reinvestment in tourism infrastructure or destination marketing, makes it harder for Maine to compete with neighboring states like New Hampshire, Vermont, and even New York.

Imagine trying to explain to a guest:

“Yes, you'll pay more here than in other states — because Maine added a special charge just for booking.”

That's not a message that encourages return visits or supports the image of Maine as a welcoming, value-conscious destination.

Maine's tourism economy is built on hard work, hospitality, and repeat visitation. LD 1476 risks undermining all three.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore more equitable funding mechanisms that do not single out one sector already contributing significantly to state revenues. Let's protect the competitiveness of Maine's tourism industry while working collaboratively to address the issues we all care about.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rafal Subernat- ME physician, resident, and small business owner