

Jenna Lookner
Little Deer Isle
LD 1929

Dear Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee:

I am writing in support of LD 1929. This bill was submitted on behalf of year-round residents in increasingly seasonal communities that experience off-season difficulties with impacts related to unoccupied and unattended properties utilized by seasonal residents and renters.

Since moving to Little Deer Isle from Midcoast Maine in 2022 we have experienced multiple power outages in excess of 24 hours. On numerous occasions, these outages have been prolonged due to their source: trees on the line on a private road that allows access to two seasonal properties, neither of which are routinely checked following a damaging storm.

During the winter of 2023/2024 when we experienced little snow, it became apparent that these properties were relying on their private plow driver to act as a passive inspector, due to the fact that there were heavy wind storms that did not bring snow there was reportedly tremendous damage- some impacting us via power outages- and some that went unnoticed for weeks and even months. This would have been prevented if the properties were being maintained or checked on by a caretaker.

Even utility employees have expressed their frustration with these situations.

As a former municipal official, I believe that while LD 1929 may initially appear cumbersome in implementation, however it will have a long-term benefit to communities in terms of accountability for seasonal residents and mitigation of impact on both year-round residents and municipal resources in the event of a weather-related or miscellaneous event or emergency. I firmly believe that seasonal and short-term occupancy will only increase in the near term and I believe this bill is a step in the direction of ensuring safety and quality of life for year-round residents.

As a year-round resident of an increasingly seasonal community I urge the committee to strongly consider LD 1929 as a measure to ensure the prioritization of off-season home inspection/care that is essential to ensuring the overall wellbeing of year-round communities and residents. I believe that it is essential to be a good neighbor and that is not a seasonal thing, I hope we can work together within our communities to implement systems that improve communication and response every day of the year.