



MAINE CAMPGROUND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony in Opposition of LD 1298, An Act to Allow a Local Option Sales Tax on Short-term Lodging to Fund Affordable Housing

Senator Grohoski
Representative Perry
Members of the Taxation Committee

My name is Debra Hart, and I am a resident of Manchester, Maine. I am presenting this testimony in opposition to this legislation on behalf of my client, the Maine Campground Owners Association. As in the past, the Maine Campground Owners are very opposed to any kind of a local option sales tax since it pits one campground located in a municipality against one where one does not have such an additional tax.

As we have said in the past, camping is an affordable way for Maine people and out-of-state people to vacation in the State of Maine. And even though the season extends into the fall season, it is still a relatively short amount of time for campgrounds to make money. Their customers not only spend money at these campgrounds, but they also at local amusement parks, grocery stores, and local shops and restaurants. Campgrounds employ local people and use a number of local vendors in their facilities and support the local economies. Bills, like local option sales tax, limit their abilities to support these economies.

In closing, Maine campgrounds compete with campgrounds in other New England states and Canadian provinces for tourists. We value our tourism industry and want all of them to prosper on an equal basis.

Thank you for your time and attention to our comments.