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Joint standing Committee on Taxation
LD 291

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly representing my friends and neighbors in Litchfield, Monmouth and my hometown of Wales, both in Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties. I am here today to express my strong support for LD 291, "An Act to Eliminate the Lodging Tax on Campground Sites and Revert to Using the Current Sales Tax." As an advocate for both the tourism and outdoor recreation industries, I believe this bill will have significant positive effects on local economies, encourage outdoor tourism and promote fairness in our state's tax policy.

The current lodging tax at 9%, is unfairly applied to campgrounds. Reverting to the regular sales tax system for campgrounds will create greater consistency in how accommodations are taxed and reduce the burden on families and individuals who are already spending money on travel, gas, food and activities during their stays.

Many campgrounds are privately owned, small businesses that provide vital services to our communities. The lodging tax adds another layer of complexity and cost to their operations. The reduction in tax burdens would allow them to focus on providing excellent service and improving the guest experience.

By removing the lodging tax, we are encouraging individuals and families to choose more environmentally conscious ways of traveling, benefiting both the tourism industry and our state's commitment to preserving its natural resources.

For all of these reasons, I wholeheartedly support "An Act to Eliminate the Lodging Tax on Campground Sites and Revert to Using the Current Sales Tax." This bill will help make outdoor recreation more accessible and ensure fairness in tax policies.

Thank you and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

District 56 Litchfield, Wales and Monmouth