

Tiffany Ford  
Rockport  
LD 1181

My name is Tiffany Ford and I am the owner and operator of one of the largest independently owned vacation rental companies in Maine for almost 20 years. I oppose LD 1181 and any additional government oversight.

Maine is my home and I value its beauty and traditions that have been going on for generations. We are 'Vacationland' after all and income from tourist is the only thing that keeps most of our economy afloat. We need them here spending money for 4 months so we can all survive for 12.

Maine does need affordable housing. It is a big problem, but regulating vacation rentals isn't going to solve that problem because the owners reside in their properties a portion of the year. Those homes aren't a viable option for workers/year round residents. They also are not commercial dwellings. They will also never be affordable as taxes on waterfront communities aren't affordable even for the owners that own them. The only way most people can retain their homes on the coast is to rent them to offset the taxes and maintenance, not to make an income. Investors aren't buying in Maine to rent their homes, most buy because they want to retire down the road and for a few years it helps pay the taxes.

People love Maine because we are welcoming and kind, not because we want to keep everyone out. Schools and municipalities will deteriorate, desperate funds lost, and people will stop coming here which will no longer make Maine a desirable place. If we don't have tourist, we won't have jobs and we can't survive as things stand.