

BRANDON CASCI  
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I am a hopeful Maine resident that owns property in Maine, and member of the Airbnb community.

I'm writing today to voice my concern over a proposed bill (LD 1590) that would raise property taxes for short-term rental hosts. Hosts like me support thoughtful regulation, but this proposal goes far. Reclassifying our homes as commercial property would hamper Maine's lodging capacity, as well as harm the income of Hosts, our local economy, and the small businesses that depend on it.

The proposal would hurt Hosts who need this income to make ends meet. Due to the drop in tourism and visitors, my hosting income has suffered. That's money I earn and spend here, in our community. Local businesses and attractions, cleaners, contractors, and many others all benefit when visitors stay in my home. The proposed ordinance will limit these activities at a critical time for local businesses and the tourism economy.

This proposal will hurt me and our community greatly, especially as we're all working to recover our economy from the COVID-19 crisis. I encourage you to pull this legislation and protect my ability to earn critical income for me and the Pine Tree State.