

Jeff Kuhn
Wells

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Maine State Legislature
Joint Committee on State and Local Government

Public hearing testimony on LD 1365

I am writing to support LD 1365 prohibiting municipalities from banning short term rentals. My wife and I own a vacation rental home in Wells that we advertise on Vrbo and on our own site. We contribute to the Maine economy in many ways. We have an outstanding housekeeper, who, by taking care of our house, is able to home school her daughter. We purchase many of our supplies in Maine. In addition, we dine locally and employ plumbers, carpenters, lawn care people, electricians, etc. All told, short term rentals contribute huge dollars to Maine's economy.

The guests who stay at our home, buy groceries and gas, dine out, tour the state, purchase gifts, clothes and increase tax revenues. We are able to pay our expenses by renting our home and providing a service to families. In this era, people feel much safer renting a vacation home instead of staying at a motel or hotel.

Maine has the largest number of vacation rental homes in the country. Lets protect the homeowners from this ill fated attempt by the hotel, motel and chambers of commerce who are trying to regulate short term rentals. It is nothing more than restraint of trade. If municipalities limit short term rentals, what's next? It is a slippery slope to oblivion. The naysayers are trying to limit our ability as homeowners to afford our homes.

Short term rentals are THE avenue for many middle class homeowners in Maine. By renting our home, we are able to pay the mortgage, utilities and employ Mainers. Lets promote short term rentals and the wonderful memories they create and help the economic engine of Maine.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kuhn
31 Bourne Avenue
Wells, ME 04090
802-238-6484