

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to voice my support for LD 1365. I responsibly operate two short-term rental units in Portland and rely on the income to support my retirement and to pay my property taxes. Portland has enacted fair and reasonable laws regulating STRs that strike a good balance between private property rights and the needs of the citizenry.

Allowing any municipality to outright ban STRs would be an infringement of those rights and would not only hurt the people who rely on that income, but also would deprive the State of lodging tax revenue. Airbnb alone brought in \$10 million dollars in Maine tax revenue in 2019 and has collected and paid over \$2.6 billion worldwide in the past seven years.

In addition, one of the charms of STRs is enabling guests from other parts of the country and world to experience life as a local, staying in a home instead of an anonymous chain hotel. And it enables us as hosts to share the uniqueness of our communities with them . Banning STRs would effectively cut off the feeling of interconnectedness and commonality that people seek out when they travel.

Thank you for your consideration,
Peter Macomber
Portland