

Munawar Qaddoumi
Portland

My husband and I purchased a multifamily building in Portland 3 years ago, to live and rent both short and long term units within the building. Our short-term rental (STR) income is to ensure our children have funds for their higher education as well as to continuously put resources back into improving the 120 year old building, and keep rents fairly priced for our long term tenants. We have been residents in the East End for the last 3 years and consciously patronize local businesses, and for our STR guests we provide recommendations and gift cards to help further stimulate cashflow in our neighborhood, supporting the businesses within walking distance. STR's provide us as resident's in Maine a chance to improve the lives of the next generation of Mainer's as well as the opportunity to contribute to building up local businesses in our area. We are not the Hilton's or Hyatt's or some developer from out of state, looking to make a buck - we care about the distribution of wealth in our community and take pride in participating in Maine's top industry: tourism. We feel STR's should have some regulations to keep long-term housing fair and available, but activist-driven bills that severely limit STR's takes away the aforementioned benefits to the community and Maine residents.