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The state of Maine relies heavily on tourist-related income, and short term rentals are a major and growing part of that industry. Short term rentals, or vacation rentals, whether directly booked with the lodging owner or booked through such intermediaries as VRBO and AirBnB, provide an alternative to hotel and motel housing. This allows larger groups to gather together, enjoy Maine's natural beauty, and privately connect in a way not likely to happen in a hotel or motel. These gatherings are an excellent reason, in and of themselves, to ensure that all municipalities allow vacation, short-term rentals. But COVID-19 has taught us that they are even more important in times of pandemics. A group who have fulfilled all the state requirements for testing, sequestering and/or vaccinating, can visit Maine and have a healthful and pleasant experience, while contributing to Maine's economy. Thank you for your time and attention.