

Janice Woychik
Bar Harbor

I lived in Bar Harbor for 10 years. Then I moved away and kept my home using short term and long term rentals to allow me to come back to Maine in the summer. I am aware that an influx of investors has made modest homes for working Mainers difficult to get in Bar Harbor. I also have seen the "hollowing out" of neighborhoods that have been bought by investors for short term rentals. These homes lay vacant during the winter. When you are living in such a neighborhood, you have no neighbors at a time you need them. I applaud what Bar Harbor is trying to do with limiting short term rentals. Let me also say that as a home owner in Chapel Hill, where I am a realtor and a resident, we have had trouble with short term rentals. When your neighbor lives close to you and invites people who party loudly, close to your home, it makes it impossible to enjoy your own property. It's no fun calling the police on a home next to you. Chapel Hill is also working on limitations to short term rentals. It seems that this is a local concern that the state should step away from.