

melanie wold martin
boothbay harbor

We have owned three different properties in Maine over the past 21 years, which we have rented on a short-term basis in summers (when we are not there). We have used various rental agents and lately VRBO.com (and a property manager) to rent these out. We have had almost no issues with the tenants apart from the odd breakage and one family with three dogs (who were not invited back). The income pays for our property taxes, insurance and utilities and gives us enough money to maintain it to a high standard. None of which would be possible without the rental income. We vet the tenants carefully, and the neighbors have yet to complain about any of them, apart from the one with three dogs!

In Boothbay Harbor, where we currently have a home, the summer visitors comprise the heart and soul of the community, which is sparsely populated in winters. They visit restaurants, charter fishing boats, go whale watching, buy lobster and generally enjoy Maine while spending their money. It would also be a shame to lose the buzz, the vibe, the fun that summer short-term rentals add to our state and our town.

If the state were to stop short-term rentals, we would not be able to afford to keep our home in Maine - where we intend to retire.