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To: "sandy.fredricks@raymondmaine.org" <sandy.fredricks@raymondmaine.org>
Date: 07/09/2025 08:37 AM
Subject: STR in Raymond

Property Owner: Amanda and Andrew Gervais
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Date: July 9, 2025

To the Raymond Town Select Board and Planning Board,

I am writing to express my support for the continued allowance and thoughtful regulation of short-term rentals in the Town of Raymond. As a resident and invested community member, I believe that short-term rentals provide significant benefits to our town—economically, socially, and culturally—and can be managed in a way that maintains the character and peace of our neighborhoods.

Short-term rentals offer numerous advantages to Raymond, including:

1. Economic Boost for Local Businesses

Visitors who stay in short-term rentals contribute directly to the local economy by shopping at local stores, dining in our restaurants, and supporting service providers, such as cleaners, landscapers, and contractors.

2. Support for Homeowners

Short-term rentals help property owners offset the cost of mortgages, property taxes, and home maintenance. This can make it more feasible for residents to afford and keep their homes, especially amid rising costs.

3. Tourism and Exposure

Short-term rentals help attract tourists and introduce more people to the beauty and recreation Raymond offers—from Sebago Lake to our hiking trails. Many guests eventually become long-term visitors or even property owners who invest in the community.

4. Property Maintenance and Value

Contrary to concerns, responsible short-term rental operators often keep their homes well-maintained, clean, and up to code to remain competitive and compliant, which helps elevate neighborhood property values.

5. Flexibility in Use

Short-term rentals provide flexibility for families who want to use their property for part of the year and rent it out the rest. This aligns well with Raymond's seasonal character as a lakeside destination.

6. Encouragement of Responsible Regulation

Supporting short-term rentals allows the town to focus on fair and enforceable regulations—such as occupancy limits, parking requirements, and quiet hours—that preserve neighborhood integrity while still supporting property rights and economic opportunity.

I understand that with any policy, balance is crucial. I support smart and reasonable regulations that address concerns around noise, parking, and safety—while not eliminating the right to responsibly host short-term guests.

Raymond has always been a welcoming, community-minded town. Let's continue to support policies that foster growth, fairness, and sustainability for both year-round and seasonal residents.

Thank you for your time and for considering this perspective.

Sincerely,
Amanda Gervais
Raymond, Maine



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