

I am writing on behalf of the increase in the local option tax for Stowe, Vermont.

I am the co-owner of the Brass Lantern Inn in Stowe, Vermont. We are a small, family owned 9 bedroom bed and breakfast. We assumed ownership of the business in June of 2022, having moved here from Ohio. I own the business with my husband Andrew Kohn and we are raising our two kids Harper and Ajax who attend Stowe public schools.

The success of our business is reliant on two things: Stowe being an attractive place for people to visit and a community that is affordable for us as a family and for our staff, 2 housekeepers we employ full time. That means that Stowe needs to make ongoing infrastructure investments that support its roads, parks, electrical grid and other infrastructure, and continue to work to make housing in Stowe affordable, a key factor in finding and keeping good employees. A few years ago, my employees lived in Stowe, but now live in adjacent towns as Stowe has become increasingly unaffordable for housing. The efforts of the town to address this issue needs to be supported while still allowing them to maintain the parks, trails and roads that make Stowe such an attractive place to visit and live in. The modest increase will not have an impact on guests staying with us, it's a small additional cost, but can lead to great benefits to the town.

As small business owners in Stowe we stand with our community and its leaders to support this effort.

Donald Jones
Owner/Innkeeper
Brass Lantern Inn