

## CLUB NEWS – RVers Unite

From Escapees RV Club

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### Overnight Parking Ban Defeated



In early May, a bill was introduced in the Maine State Legislature that would have made it a civil offense to park an RV overnight on any public parking lot in the state. Thanks to a timely notification by one of our members and our ability to quickly organize a grass-roots campaign against the measure, the bill did not survive the session.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Anne Perry, D-Calais, asked the House of Representatives to vote down the bill, stating that it was too broad, could affect too many businesses, and impact safety for RV travelers. Ms. Perry stated that she had received a number of e-mails and calls from RVers all over the country, and that although some of the e-mails were nasty, many others were from people who gave her valuable information and helped her make the decision to stop the bill.

This is not the first time that RVers have been faced with such a challenge on a state level. Several years ago, similar legislation was introduced in both Montana and Nevada. Due to the protests from RVers all over the country, those attempts to ban RV parking also failed.

The key issue, and the reason that Escapees RV Club has always acted as a parking rights advocate, is that there are times when traveling RVers simply need to park somewhere other than a campground. Sometimes commercial parks are full or closed for the season. It can be difficult for a traveling RVer to find a local park, especially if it is late in the evening. Other issues come into play as well. For instance, how tired is the RV driver? Far too often, RVers will drive too long, too late, or continue searching for an RV park way past their safety and comfort zone. Knowing that they are welcome to pull into an easily accessible parking lot and get a few hours of rest anytime of the day or night is an enormous safety net for the traveler.

Thank you to the many RVers who sent e-mails or made phone calls to Maine legislators and tourism offices. Your voices were definitely heard! We will continue to work to protect the RVers' right to choose where they park. We also work hard to promote our Good Neighbor Policy, which provides guidelines for RVers who wish to dry-camp in urban areas. RVers can download a copy of that policy at [www.escapees.com/Boondocking.asp](http://www.escapees.com/Boondocking.asp). We ask all RVers to follow those simple guidelines when parking in urban settings. We also ask all travelers to please let us know if you hear about any new attempts to restrict RV parking. We depend on you, the traveler, to help us stay on top of the ever-changing

legislative landscape. You can always reach us at 888-757-2582 or at [clubbusiness@escapees.com](mailto:clubbusiness@escapees.com).

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