

Dawn Huntley

From: george nonis <gsnonis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 9:09 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Cc: Rep. Casey, Stephen M.
Subject: OPPOSE H7657

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Dear Legislators,

I strongly oppose bill H7657 and urge you to reject this bill in your committee.

I am a 20 year Narragansett resident and an owner of a 4 bedroom rental home which I rent out during the summer.

I am writing today not only as a rental property owner, but also, as a voice for the local businesses in Narragansett. Businesses that depend on summer tourism to make it through the winter when the population shrinks. These businesses don't have the time to attend meetings and write emails. They worry about their business 24/7..will their employees show up, how can they handle the ever increasing costs that affect their business and their customers?

Narragansett has the most short term rentals in the state and thus, their renters have a significant effect on the economy of not only the town, but also the state.

Short term rentals satisfy a consumer need that hotels do not provide. I'm sure many of you have experienced the benefit of staying in a home when away.

During the last two years, there has been a significant change in the Narragansett summer tourist rental market.

Traditionally, it has always been a Saturday to Saturday weekly rental market. We have now seen fewer summer renters who want to rent for a week because of the economy. The expense of renting a full week is just not doable for many families. Certainly, the added 6% short term rental tax which the legislature passed last session has been added on to the cost of renting doesn't help. Plus during and after Covid, people would work for a part of their vacation week but now with many businesses requiring back to the office, it is difficult to get a whole week off. Also, Narragansett has for years been attractive to vacationing Canadians. That market has now gone away.

All this makes it ever more difficult for local businesses to survive.

This bill will allow cities and towns to tax and license short term rentals out of existence. The Ocean State has always been a vacation destination. Passing this bill will, unfortunately, push tourists to other less costly and more welcoming places.

Although the House's Short Term Rental Commission has been extended, oddly, this bill did NOT originate from this Commission. Thus, it was not supported by the Commission members.

Rhode Island businesses depend on you making the right decisions to support them.

Do this by rejecting H7657.

Thank you for your time.

George Nonis, 60 Exeter Blvd, Narragansett, RI