

## Dawn Huntley

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**From:** Kirsten Evans <keeks.evans@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2026 8:27 AM  
**To:** House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Casey, Stephen M.  
**Subject:** OPPOSE H7657

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Hello,

I am opposed to H7657. This bill would do a great deal of damage, not the least of which dramatically changing the feel of Middletown's quaint neighborhoods- something short term rental properties have been careful *not* to do.

Something that visitors to the state of Rhode Island love about staying in a rental home here is that they get a local's experience. Quiet sidestreets. This bill could unintentionally open up a world of disaster for these neighborhoods. Once there's a commercially zoned building in a small neighborhood, everything changes. Which I'm sure you know.

This proposed change in zoning would also severely injure not only the tourism, leaving the hundreds of people who flock to our coastline throughout the spring and summer with far fewer options (particularly families, who often require multiple bedrooms and a kitchen/backyard), but it would wipe out a number of small businesses. Short term rentals are not run by some corporation somewhere. They are run by the home owners, property managers, cleaners, and contractors who keep them. They represent one of our most basic human practices- offering shelter, a place to stay. They are a business, but they are not commercial. They are homes, not hotels. Characterizing them and taxing them as such is a gross misunderstanding that undermines longstanding property rights.

Strongly opposing,  
Kirsten Evans  
11 Winthrop Drive