

Dear Members of the Commission,

I'm writing to share my perspective on short-term rentals (STRs) in Rhode Island.

As a property owner, I want to emphasize the significant benefits that STRs bring to RI and the local communities. STRs are more than just vacation homes—they provide vital housing options for traveling nurses, displaced families, members of the army/navy/marines/etc., professionals, and others, while also generating substantial tax revenue that funds public services and bolsters our economy. This revenue supports local contractors, small businesses, and countless industries that thrive alongside a strong tourism ecosystem.

On a personal note, my wife and I decided to invest in an STR for a deeply meaningful reason. Our 7-year-old son has special needs and will require lifelong care. The primary purpose of our STR venture was to secure an asset that could generate consistent income to support him well after we are gone. This endeavor not only helps our family plan for the future but also allows us to contribute to Rhode Island's economy and community in a sustainable way.

While I support balanced regulation to ensure responsible STR operations, I urge the commission to avoid overly restrictive or arbitrary policies that could unintentionally harm families like mine, as well as the broader tourism and property-owner community. It's critical to protect property owners' rights and foster a regulatory framework that enables STRs to continue contributing to Rhode Island's economy and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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