

June 30, 2019

Town of Skykomish

Mayor and Council,

I am opposed to allowing Short Term Rentals in Residential Zones of the Town of Skykomish. Allowing these businesses in residential areas is destructive to neighborhoods, weakens our community, and burdens our town. I am not opposed to rentals of 28 days or more in residential zones.

Here is why I believe STR's in Residential Zones is a very bad idea:

DESTRUCTIVE TO NEIGHBORHOODS:

- Inserts an invasive transient element into our neighborhoods
- Destroys the sense of community – you no longer know your neighbor
- Loss of privacy – reciprocal respect of boundaries eliminated
- Security threat – you no longer know who is your neighbor
- Creates parking problems – transients less likely to respect roadway clearances
- Creates noise issues – encourages partying without respect for impact on neighbors
- Diminishes property values – destroys the tranquil nature of our neighborhoods

WEAKENS OUR COMMUNITY:

- Loss of residential housing units – eliminates homes for families
- Threat to our School District – loss of families equals loss of students
- Loss of community involvement – transients don't contribute to community development
- Loss of economic contribution – transients don't develop economic structure
- Encourages absentee ownership – emphasis on profit rather than community
- Encourages multiple dwellings on single family lots – trailers, auxiliary buildings, etc.
- Hollows out our community with transient housing replacing family homes

BURDENS OUR TOWN GOVERNMENT:

- Creates multiple governance problems without creating compensating revenue
- Inconsistent with Zoning policies – blurs the distinction between Residential and Retail
- Inconsistent with Vision goals – destroys the traditional character of the Town
- Requires local enforcement when no local enforcement mechanism exists
- Parking restrictions not respected
- Creates snow removal and other maintenance problems
- Discourages development of new lodging facilities in commercial zones of town

The Town Council should protect the rights and peace of mind of the residents of Skykomish and restrict Short Term Rentals to Commercially Zoned districts of the Town. The personal rights of residents are respected by protecting the character of our neighborhoods and their property rights are protected by continuing to allow rental of residential properties for periods of 28 days or more.

Todd Brunner
Councilmember
Town of Skykomish