

I am writing this letter to request the town council to reconsider aspects of the STR ordinance as soon as possible.

1. **I propose that the quotas for licenses should be taken away and licenses should be handed out to all property owners that wish to short term rent their houses by paying the fees and complying with the inspection**, etc. That way the city will have a better grasp of contact information and enforcement of rules will be more manageable. The city will earn more revenue from each of the licenses and will hold the power to revoke licenses if there is non-compliance. Furthermore, if the contact information of these license holders was made public on the website, neighborhood complaints might be able to be resolved on a one-on-one basis rather than council members having to respond to phone calls in the middle of the night.

For example, when we purchased our property, a river access for the community by means of a public easement was advertised as part of the sale. We simply turned around and advertised that to our guests as such. I believe that led some confused guests to accidentally trespass on private property looking for that river easement. It should never have happened and when our Sky Lane neighbors came to us and told us what was happening, we changed our listing so it no longer mentioned a river access and made a note in our house rules that guests should be careful to not trespass into neighbors properties. We resolved these issues within our community by listening to our neighbors and correcting our STR policies. **We believe having local government interference doesn't seem like a community-first environment.** We have prioritized the voices of our neighbors over more business and we intend to continue to do as such.

2. We are a small family that loves the town of Skykomish and what it has to offer. We use our cabin for personal use frequently and come to Skykomish with our family of 3 little kids. I tell you this because we care a lot about the kinds of guests we host. We only allow two day rentals and we personally screen each guest to make sure they have a good history and a good reason for why they are visiting Skykomish. We have denied guests more than once that sound like they are only there to "have a party". We have personal belongings at the cabin and treat this as our second home. **This new ordinance will drive people like us out of your town in favor of bigger vacation rental businesses with bigger pockets.** For example, we need to replace the deck at our cabin but since we are no longer allowed to supplement our income with short term rentals, the cabin is getting difficult for us to afford. Do you really want Skykomish to be a town full of vacant, dilapidated cabins that are not maintained?

We also noticed and are aware that in certain districts, more than one license has been given to the same person. **Should there not be a limit to how many licenses an individual is allowed to hold?** This favors individuals or businesses who are buying up multiple cabins in Skykomish solely for business reasons, instead of making room for family cabin owners who would like to rent out their homes part-time to make up for the cost of their homes. Isn't this what the new ordinance was trying to avoid?

3. Ultimately, there has been a lot of confusion and incongruity in rolling out this new ordinance. As of the middle of May 2021, certain property owners were still waiting to see if they were going to be allotted a permit or not. As of the middle of August 2021, no actions toward enforcement had been taken. **We understand that this is the initial year and the town is trying to figure out the process. Can we provide some leniency to homeowners as well—especially in this initial year?**

Thank you for considering our opinions,

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