From: Ryan Sommers
To: CD STRComment
Subject: Comments on Short Term Rentals
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:31:51 PM

External Email Warning! This email originated from outside of Chelan County.

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

This email is in reference to the public comments on short-term rentals.

I've lived in Chelan and Manson since 2001, moving here alone at the age of 19 from Yakima. I met my wife and her two boys here, have gotten other family members to move here, have owned three houses including renting one long-term, and can't imagine living anywhere else. I spend a lot of money in Chelan and Manson year-round, helping support our small businesses.

I now live in a small development that allows short-term rentals, and they worry me.

I can't pretend to know the real economics behind short-term rentals and how much tourist money they might bring in. But it feels like the more short-term rentals we have, the less full-time residents can afford to live here.

It seems like they're often owned by people from out of town, to use as an investment and eventually retire here. But by the time they retire, everything's going to be a rental and no one wants to live in that. We'll become a town of nothing but tourists and rentals, and businesses will struggle in the off-season.

Living next to short-term rentals is just generally stressful. Trespassing, assuming all homes around them are also rentals, parties, noise, blocking streets, parking in driveways that aren't theirs, unattended grease fires in BBQ's, illegal fireworks, vaping coils in our dry grass field, etc. Even without COVID I've felt trapped at home the last several summers because I feel like I need to keep an eye on things.

I feel strongly we should manage the short-term rental situation better, and set our community up for long term residents over endless tourists. At the very least short-term rentals should be taxed or regulated more to be less lucrative as a pure investment, where no care is given for the community, only the substantial rental income they can get. It feels like an unregulated gold rush at the moment.

It also seems absolutely ridiculous we've had stay-at-home orders but have allowed short-term rentals to remain open – seems like no one has stayed home, and we're surrounded by people from other COVID hot spots – but I'm guessing that's a complaint for another time.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Ryan Sommers