From: la
To: CD STRComment
Subject: Short Term Rentals and why they are important
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 1:39:32 AM

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Thank you County of Chelan for allowing me this opportunity to voice my opinion concerning the future of short term rentals.

I believe for whatever reason the 3 Commissioners have been extremely short sighted on the subject of short term rentals, and I also believe that the Commissioners are placing their own self interests before the interests of the community at large. I have formed this opinion from the way I see the board attempting to pass legislation and financial levies quickly, during a worldwide pandemic as if this was the most important issue the board has to deal with at present.

In March of 2020 there were a combined 60 Covid cases with less than 5 deaths in all of Chelan and Douglas counties combined. That number, as of 8/31/2020 is now 2800 with about 17 deaths. Clearly we are not winning the battle against this virus, and we will not win until a vaccine occurs which is quite a long ways off in all probability.

I can't speak for Chelan or Wenatchee but I will say this about Leavenworth...and what I have to say is that Leavenworth is dying. There have been numerous businesses that have shut down and some have been put up for sale. Pay for parking lots in downtown Leavenworth which on any August day in years past would have been full are now 75% empty on weekends!

Oktoberfest has been cancelled. The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will in all likelihood be cancelled. Winery tours cancelled. Music festivals. Cancelled. Art shows-cancelled. This is the reality. If you doubt this look at your sales tax revenue for the last 6 months.

My rental cabin produces income to the community. I buy gift certificates at Der Squirrel Tree Restaurant. I buy propane and many other items at Plain Hardware. My guests buy groceries at Plain Grocery. They buy gas at the 76 station at Coles Corners. Milk shakes at The 59er Diner. And they go into Leavenworth regularly to visit shops, buy souvenirs, and eat at local restaurants. A few months ago I purchased a new washer and dryer from Home Depot. I use local plumbers and electricians. Landscapers. Hot tub repair people.

If Leavenworth did not want tourism why did they vote to convert the entire town to a Bavarian theme?
Since the pandemic exploded how many Chelan County wage earners have gone on unemployment?
Are the food banks doing more or less business right now?
How about hospitals? Are they becoming overwhelmed?
The writing is on the wall, clearly legible and unmistakenly negative but you seem to want to plow ahead regardless - to the detriment of everyone that gains from a cabin rental. Almost as if you had some kind of point to prove.

Gentlemen you need to pinch yourselves.
We have a severe depression in the making and you act as if it's business as usual.
Because of the way you act I question your motives especially in an election year.

Nobody is flying, and nobody is taking a cruise, and nobody is going to Vegas, and nobody is going to Canada.
But those that still have disposable income are renting cabins and not just in Leavenworth.
Cabins everywhere are becoming fully booked because they are providing a sanity break for families that have been locked up for months and will continue to be locked up for even more months, maybe even

years.

Please gentlemen-you are not headed down the correct path on this issue.
You might think you are for some obscure reason but in my opinion you don't seem to understand what's involved below the surface of a few bad players.
And to be honest near as I can tell you don't seem to be all that interested either.

Thank you.

Tom Perricone