From: karen harrison
To: CD STRComment
Subject: ban of short term rentals
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Hello

I would like to speak to the dream, ambition and goals that foster the foundation of America's vitality.
The vitality that is generated from the blood, sweat and tears of individuals that forged the small businesses that made America the "Promise Land".
The land where hopes and hard work could yield a safe, respectable place within a community of like minded individuals. Mom & Pop Shops, tradesmiths, churches, farming, food and rest establishments.
Necessary commodities and services whose individuality defines the town's identity and provides a sense of belonging and jobs to the community.

Leavenworth embodies the theme of small shopkeepers, artists and businesses, each bringing their own special flavor to the picnic that is our community.
It isn't just the incredible natural beauty of Leavenworth that draws the many visitors, but that it Represents the American Dream!

While I was struggling with cancer and subsequent loss of employment, it was this dream that inspired me to create my own business in the community of Leavenworth. I purchased a property and designed it to offer a quaint respite for the traveler. This short term rental provides my income. And, it provides not only income to me - while my guests bring revenue to the local grocery stores, shops, restaurants and sport/adventure tours - I also employ local housekeepers, groundskeepers, construction tradesmen, hot tub maintenance, snow shoveling /ploughing, repair persons, and even the resident real estate broker earned from selling me the property that I pay county taxes on.

Leavenworth can't afford to become a gated retirement home. If the rights of small business to operate are stripped away, in their absence conglomerates will move in and take away the unique blend of community charm that is so endearing here. Little by little the town will look like downtown Everyconcrete city. The residents and travelers will have no care or connection with each other. Anonymity affords opportunity for negative behavior. When guests visit a short term rental their identity and background is established and behavior on the property, monitored.

Short term rentals have been villainized by pure assumption, not facts. Short term rental owners not only care about maintaining their property above and beyond, they DEPEND on gushing reviews from guests for future bookings. We care very much about quality guests and quality reviews. Owner residents complaints about noisy children and 'outsiders' partying or vandalizing cannot substantiate Who it was, so

they make claims and blames. In reality, guests care about losing a $500 deposit or being fined for breaking rules. Furthermore, rental owners care about maintaining a lovely home. Guests are held by their credit cards - which is a great incentive to be accountable, I can't say the same for resident owner's friends, extended family or their drunk nephew who stayed over while they were away.
My property is my business, my income and my second home. I take great pride and effort in maintaining it as a respectable sanctuary. I resent accusations that short term rental owners harm the community. In every way, I see that hosting travelers brings positive experiences in the interactions with community, nature and economy.

By banning short term rentals, you will:

take away valuable, many faceted contributions to the community
prohibit the right to earn a living and enjoy the fruits of one's labor. (a fundamental human right, guaranteed by the Constitution).
open the door to conglomerate hotel industry that does not care about community
limit population demographics
diminish property values

respectfully,

Karen Harrison
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