

Chris O'Brien

From: drake patten <hurricanehillfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 6:29 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: oppose Bill H-8183

Members of the House Finance Committee:

I write in opposition to Bill H-183. It is confusing to see this bill being heard when the House is currently undertaking a study commission on this very topic-one led by one of the bill's sponsors.

As a STR host and a strong supporter of this sector's value to our overall economy and specifically to Rhode Island's robust tourism profile, I urge you to hold this bill to allow the Study Commission's work to be completed.

I have written in the past last why STRs are a valuable asset to our state. Today, I will share the profiles of two recent guests as example:

First, a family which included three generations in RI for a graduation. They booked with us an over year ago and told us at the time there were simply no hotels that could accommodate them with adjoining rooms and an option to prepare food for their youngest member. At our farm cottage they could be together, look after the toddler, and meet everyone's needs for food, naps, etc. They were busy and scheduled but grateful to come "home" and the end of their long days. They told us how much it meant to be in home and not a hotel.

Second, four friends just recently in retirement who came to RI to spend three days biking RI's paths and trails. They had a lot of gear and wanted a safe place for their expensive bikes. And they wanted to begin and end their days as they spent them: in nature. They ate out at local restaurants, never using our kitchen other than for breakfast. But their bikes were safe and they could sit in the backyard, talk and laugh, play with our dog and soothe their tired muscles.

For both these parties, an STR was the right option.

I look forward to the Commission's continued work, which hopefully will include the opportunity for the members to hear from all of us who do this work-so the Commission may understand both why we do it and how well we do it. There are so many ways to support Rhode Island's tourism economy, and in my humble opinion, STRs deserve praise, not punishment.

Respectfully,

Drake Patten
Hurricane Hill Farm

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