

Chris O'Brien

From: Kate Atwater Butcher <kate@birealty.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 3:35 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: info@ristra.org
Subject: Short term rental tax increase

Good afternoon,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed increase to the short term rental tax. The current tax rate has proven challenging for many of our repeat summer visitors, reducing their stays from two weeks to one, or just a long weekend in the off season. I am confident that any further increase will prohibit them from being able to rent at all. Block Island and the Rhode Island Shoreline is already unattainable to many families as a vacation destination. These families come to our Island and support the Island businesses and in turn create tax dollars for the state. They rent kayaks, they get ice cream cones, they go out to eat, they visit our light houses, they shop in our stores. They are already paying taxes on everything! Please don't make it worse.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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