

I strongly oppose Bill B8182 which will allow cities and towns to excessively and inappropriately restrict the rights of property owners.

I have been a property owner in Narragansett since 2009. I am not now, nor have I ever been, involved in the short term rental market. But I believe that STRs have a valueable and important place in the economics and fabric of our community.

For example, my daughter is getting married in July at Shepherds Run in South Kingstown. Several of our family and friends from all over the country are happily renting homes in Narragansett for 2, 3, 4 and 5 days. They are excited to visit the area we have been telling them about for years! In addition to the rental fees, they will each spend hundreds of (or more?) dollars in our local restaurants and shops. If these STRs were not available for them, it is unlikely that we would have held the wedding in this area at all. What does this bill say to the restaurants, wedding venues, and shops in the area? What will it mean to their future, if our town is able to ban STRs?

Further, to be very frank, I believe the Narragansett Town Council is out of control, and is acting not in the best interest of the community as a whole, but rather to serve the whims of a certain few homeowners associations. They are anxious for this bill to pass so that they can regulate the STRs out existence. The majority block of the Town Council want Narragansett to become an exclusive, full-time resident town, and I am afraid that they - as well as perhaps some other RI cities and towns - will use this bill to drive their agenda about who is welcome in our town to live and visit.

Again, please to not allow this bill to pass. Sincerely,

Charlene Heffernan
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Narragansett, RI