

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an older homeowner who rents my property to various groups including healthcare workers, summer tourists, URI students, and occasionally host my own family who live in other states and countries. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill H8182.

This proposed law would allow local towns such as South Kingstown and Narragansett to enforce stringent regulations on short-term rentals. These include repetitive and burdensome permitting, high fees, regular inspections, and extensive paperwork for both state and local registries.

Such regulations will negatively impact our local and state economy by harming small businesses and individuals who rely on rental income, contributing significantly to our local economies especially tourism in South County which survives without an economic engine beyond tourism and URI students.

Moreover, this law would make it more challenging for me to supplement my income during retirement, leading to increased rental fees because the fees will be passed to the tenants, and contribute to the growing issue of unaffordable housing in Rhode Island.

Furthermore, Bill H8182 would give excessive power to towns to dictate who can stay or visit, infringing on property owners' rights. This overreach could potentially violate the 5th amendment, which along with federal and state constitutions, protects our property rights. The right of property ownership is essential for a free society, allowing individuals to live and pursue happiness according to their personal values.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Joslin B. Leasca
South Kingstown