

# I OPPOSE HOUSE BILL H8182

To the people that we elect to represent us,

I write in opposition of bill H8182 sponsored by rep Carson. I do support the extension of the House Study Commission on Short Term Rentals. However, it is PREMATURE to pass other components of the bill as we still have UNFINISHED business to complete this task! Allow this study to continue so we can have a balance between the RIGHTS of TAX PAYING property owners and the impact that STR's have in the local communities. (both positive and negative).

My husband and I own a few STR's in the Middletown area. We have watched our neighborhood and the town blossom with new restaurants and small businesses that are flourishing because of the STR's. The families that rent from us, love to be able to walk to the beach and go to Diego's for dinner, without having to hop in the car and fight for parking in Newport. The families that rent from us also enjoy the fact that STR's make it an affordable vacation for them, as they have a yard, living room and kitchens to help with superfluous costs. Hotel stays for them are just too unaffordable and unrealistic! They spend money in Middletown and come back yearly. (I have many guests that opt to come in the winter for less crowds and more time in areas that they enjoy)! There is also the FACT that the area has IMPROVED dramatically due to everyone keeping up their properties, renovating, building, and quite honestly, spending a lot of money with local contractors, builders, designers, and shop owners.

I do feel it is a slap in the face, when we as STR owner's abide by any new regulation and request that are put forth. We pay our taxes, abide by the law, keep up our properties and provide a service! To ask that a 5% tax be allocated, without completing the study and to then put it towards homelessness is ridiculous! There is NO PROVEN CORRELATION to STR's and homelessness! Give me a break. The Middletown/Newport area has been a vacation destination for over 150 years! Nothing new there. Stop trying to tax us to death!

Sincerely,

Lisa Mehrmann (90 Renfrew Ave Middltown)