

Dear Senate Committee on Business & General Government,

I Strongly Oppose SB 621 which would allow all pre-existing or new homes to be used as Vacation Rental Dwellings (VRDs), in all residential areas across Oregon with no restrictions.

On the Oregon Coast, we have a housing emergency. One cause is the growing number of vacation rentals. We cannot house even our current local work force, whether it is for the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, NOAA, State or Federal Agencies, etc. It has been a free-for-all for absentee property owners to designate a vacation rental anywhere dwellings exist. This has caused a severe lack of rentals for workers, whether it be for Government, Industry, Recreational or Service & Hospitality. Vacation Rentals have eliminated such a large number of rentals that our coastal communities can't provide enough housing for those who live and work here year round. It'll make it worse by converting more and more rentals to VRDs.

Every community and county deserves the right to self-determination. Our local community needs to stop vacation rentals from ruining neighborhoods with parking problems, loud music, large number of guests, pets out of control, litter, etc.

This is a growing problem as the number of VRDs have increased and are moving further into residential areas. I noticed that not one member of your committee lives near the coast. Imagine if one day the house across the street (or next door) from your house becomes a VRD. You'll find it will be like having a motel for a neighbor, a motel with no manager nearby. This creates parking, noise and garbage issues. I have one such VRD directly across the street from me and another over my back year fence. Lincoln County and its cities have taken steps to address these issues with reasonable regulations.

I strongly oppose SB 621 which takes away coastal community rights. Communities need to make the best choices for their own communities. Vacation Rentals have already caused a housing emergency and are destroying family neighborhoods.

The Oregon Coast is not like other communities in Oregon. Coastal government must limit Vacation Rentals for our economic survival. We must have standard housing rentals for workers, and put a limit on the number of vacation rentals for tourists.

Let those of us who live and work here decide what is best for us.

Sincerely,

John Stotts

Waldport