

I have lived and worked full time in Lincoln City for 6 years. In that short span of time, tourism and Vacation Rentals have exploded here. In my neighborhood of Roads End, we are now approximately 25% VRD's because the explosion went completely unchecked, even though the rest of the city had a 10% cap. We fought a long and hard battle with the City after we were annexed to put a cap on VRD's in our neighborhood to match the 10% cap existing for the rest of the city. We finally got the cap, but we can only get down to 10% through attrition, so we will continue to be overrun by tourists in Roads End for many years to come.

But there has been an even bigger impact on the City as a whole. Traffic leading into our City and throughout is horrendous. I've watched our beaches become tourist trash cans. There is no funding for routine clean up, so it falls to residents to organize beach cleanup events. There is no funding to clean up the trash left along our residential roads which consists of everything from food wrappers to dirty diapers, booze bottles, and drug paraphernalia. There is not enough police presence to handle the large crowds bringing in illegal fireworks to our neighborhood. One conversation with the Chiefs of our Police and Fire Departments will tell you all you need to know on that front.

There is also the undeniable impact on the availability of affordable housing as a result of growing tourism and VRD's. We can barely keep our police department staffed because of the cost of living here. We can't grow into other industries without affordable housing for employees. Affordable housing is even less affordable with the lack of living wage jobs. There is no doubt tourism brings revenue to this city, but jobs created by tourism rarely provide a living wage. We need other industries here and that won't happen without affordable housing, and that means we have to control the impact of VRD's on housing.

TRT revenue is like crack cocaine. The more the city has, the more it wants. Our city was hell bent on loading up our neighborhoods with tourists. Their marketing campaigns and the city regulations were VERY successful in supporting all things tourism. And now the residents have paid the ultimate price by a serious decline in the quality of our lives and the increase in cost of living in this town. Simply put, the tax payers who are here year round are not benefiting from 70% of the TRT money going back into marketing for **still more tourists!!!** We need to be able to use TRT funds to address the impact of tourism on our infrastructure, our beaches, our neighborhoods, etc.

I strongly urge you to support SB 595 to change the distribution allowances of TRT revenue. **I also urge you to NOT SUPPORT SB 534** as it would remove the VRD cap in our city and further deteriorate our residential neighborhood and continue the negative impact on housing. Properties that rent out as VRD's 365 days a year are a commercial property. Commercial properties DO NOT BELONG IN OUR RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS!

SB 534	Requires city to allow single-family dwellings in residential lots platted and zoned for such uses.	Oppose
SB 595	Allows use of part of transient lodging tax funds for affordable housing	Support

Respectfully,

ELAINE STARMER, PMP
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SR. PROJECT MANAGER

651-796-6765
800-431-1333 ext 7966765



3344 Highway 149
Eagan, MN 55121

convergeone.com