

It is my understanding that SB 621, as introduced, would prohibit any local government from enforcing or restricting use of residential dwellings as short term vacation rentals. Vacation rentals have severely reduced the availability of housing for our residents on the coast. In Lincoln City we have worked for many years to come to an agreement to limit the number of housing units that can be used as vacation rentals. We are beginning to see an increase in the number of available residential units for our full-time residents. We still have too many families that are unsheltered. Our local governments need to be able to regulate the number of residential units that can sit empty most of the year, and be unavailable for our residents to inhabit.

Vacation rental dwellings contribute to problems with noise, parking, and trash. Most vacationers have no respect for the neighborhood and the people who live there full time. Areas where there are few full-time residents invite burglaries and vandalism. An area of mini-hotels is not a neighborhood where full-time residents want to live. Please do not restrict our ability to make our coastal communities livable.

As a concerned citizen, and former Lincoln City city councilor, I urge you to vote "no" to any legislation that would restrict local government's control over short term vacation rentals. Local control must remain in effect.

Susan Wahlke