



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

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March 5, 2019

Chair Riley, Vice-Chair Girod, Members of the Senate Committee on Business and General Government:

The city of Hood River is writing today in opposition to SB 621, which would prevent communities from regulating short-term rentals.

We regulated our Short-Term Rental industry as a key strategy to retain housing inventory for workers and residents of our little city. The growth of tourists in our residential neighborhoods – really a distributed hotel throughout the City – was a threat to our diverse economy and our neighbors' livability. After long discussion, our City Council chose to limit, but not eliminate, STR's in all residential zones.

Local governments look to regulate short-term rentals and vacation rentals for a variety of reasons including livability for full-time residents, housing availability, and conflict reductions. Cities are able to balance these types of concerns with the desire to have additional opportunities for tourism based economic.

At the local level, we need to be able to balance policies to ensure that all Oregonians can enjoy living, working and playing in the variety of communities that exist in Oregon. For that reason, we respectfully request you do not pass SB 621.

Sincerely,

Mayor Paul Blackburn

Hood River City Council