

To the Honorable Sen. Michael Dembrow & Senate committee members,
I have lived in NE Portland (District 23) for nearly three decades and I'm very pleased to have you, Sen. Dembrow, as my progressive voice in Salem. I have six long-term rental homes in rural Hood River and, over the years, have watched Hood River fight to maintain its orcharding heritage in the face of aggressive real-estate interests and Love-it-to-Death tourism.

SB 621 cripples the ability of Hood River's locally elected officials to protect their farming heritage and their citizens' livability. Both the city and the county have already held literally years of public hearings to be sure they got it right in regulating -- not banning -- vacation rentals.

If there is any doubt that local governments need the freedom to regulate vacation rentals you only need to look around the hearing room at the political muscle gathered to pass SB 621 and end-run local decisions for livability.

It is undisputed that Hood River is one of the most expensive rural counties in the US. As rural landlords in Hood River, we've watched how the conversion of limited housing into vacation rentals has made it impossible for the people who work in Hood River's hospitality/tourism industry from making a home in the community where they work. In the past six years, this 'AirBnB' boon has transformed once-thriving neighborhoods.

Please send this anti-livability bill to an early dustbin. Don't let the residents of small towns and rural counties become hostages to late-session horsetrading by global property investors, online vacation platforms like AirBnB, and property-rights crusaders.

Thank you for your consideration,

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