
From: Katie Grill-Donovan [REDACTED]
Sent: July 13, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Clerk <Clerk@gibsons.ca>
Subject: In Support of STRs in the SCRD

Good Morning,

I am writing this as a concerned long term resident of the Sunshine Coast, in full support of Air BnB, and Short Term (less than 30 days) rentals. As a long term renter myself, I know how limiting the rental market is here on the coast, and I do not take that situation lightly. What is frightening to me, is that the SCRD is passing on the burden of affordable, long term housing, onto land and property owners. It should **not** be the responsibility of the citizens to provide this, this is a responsibility of the municipality, the SCRD, and the province at large. **To pass those burdens on to the average home or land owner is laughable, and cruel.**

I urge the SCRD to revisit:

The ability to rent on the Sunshine Coast for less than 30 days.

The ability to rent homes that may not be occupied by an owner, or on the same property as the owner.

Why is this so important?

Our limited local hotels don't have the flexibility to cater to groups who visit our region. STRs offer the flexibility that hotels simply can't. Visitors often require the amenities to make home-cooked meals, host holidays, or stay all together in one place. I also know that for many young families who struggle to make large mortgage payments in our part of Canada, having the option to rent out your home as an STR is the only way many people can make home ownership a reality. We often have people come to visit us, and there are no hotels, or motels available to rent, as they are almost always booked out many months in advance by gov't crews, or work crews of the like. Many friends, family members and community members rely on tourism as one of the biggest injections of money into our local economy, helping hundreds, if not thousands, of people stay afloat and able to pay their bills.

I would like to tell the SCRD that I want to reserve this right, along with countless others. Limiting our rights to keep STRs on the Sunshine Coast would cost THOUSANDS of people their jobs.

I am not saying that STRs don't need to be taxed or regulated. I agree that there should be some regulation, with proper taxes, permitting, and rules set in place for rentals that make the District money.

I urge the SCRD to keep the TWO (2) items above top-of-mind, and to not restrict Sunshine Coast property owners' rights. This makes the local economy money. And creates jobs. Not only does it create jobs for the hosts, but it also gives work to house cleaners, gardeners, handymen, and local businesses that benefit from tourism like restaurants, breweries, cideries, cafes, mountain bike stores, kayak rentals, and tourism in general. I currently live on a property with two long term rentals, AND a STR. My family has benefited IMMENSELY from this addition of the STR to our property, as it allows for my wife and I to make a little bit of income managing the STR, it allows our friends and family to come and

visit us more regularly, and with three aging parents, I invite them to visit as often as I can. We enjoy living on property that adds to the local economy, and we love being a party of community. The STR on our property employs 4 people on a weekly basis, and those people rely on these hours to make ends meet.

We are long term tenants, who act as the onsite management and guest services to the visitors of our property, and we have felt so proud to be able to connect with locals, and out of towners alike.

I know that the SCRD will be meeting to continue the discussion on how to regulate STRs within the area. It's possible that if these bylaws go forward, we will have a severe lack of suitable accommodations for our local visitors, and they will choose to vacation elsewhere, doling out a massive hit to the livelihood, and financial stability of thousands of locals. The passing of these proposed bylaws means that the SUNshine Coast might see a mass exodus of its young families, and people alike, as they move elsewhere to find an economy and municipality that supports them, and want what is best for them. **What good is affordable housing if you can't find work to pay for your housing? What good is removing short term rentals if you can't find people to live and work here?** You will see the "ghost town" effect in full swing: big, expensive houses that sit empty 6 months of the year, and local businesses with no one to work.

I love this community, I love the Sunshine Coast. I know in my heart that it is one of the top places in the world to visit, and live. But it infuriates me to know that these bylaws are being pushed through by the (many) rich people who are inconvenienced by the STRs, without any regards for those of us without a multi- million dollar home as a nest egg.

The Sunshine Coast needs MORE STRs, and MORE affordable long term housing, but that burden should fall on the backs of the SCRD, and the Province. Don't buck the responsibility onto home owners.

I urge you to consider my small (but mighty) voice and opinion on this matter.

With hope and resistance,

Katie Grill-Donovan