

To: Senator Debbie Mayfield
Representee Erin Grall

March 8, 2021

CC: Jason Brown, County Administrator, Indian River County

Dear Senator Mayfield and Representative Grall:

The Indian River Neighborhood Association encourages you to vote against House Bill 219 and Senate Bill 522. If passed, this bill would return us to the horrible situation created in 2011. As an organization representing many residential property owners, we feel that the peaceful enjoyment of private property rights is threatened.

Florida law already prevents local governments from passing ordinances aimed at outlawing such rentals, but argument about regulating short-term vacation rentals goes back a decade or more. The City of Vero Beach's regulations have been grandfathered in, but Indian River County and other municipalities therein are threatened. After the last major vacation rental legislation passed the Legislature, Indian River County did an admirable job of regulating the largest downsides of vacation rentals in otherwise residential neighborhoods.

Common sense regulations such as limiting the maximum number of cars at a rental and commercial event prohibitions. You both know Indian River County well, we're not South Florida. People don't come here to party all night and have destination weddings in the middle of residential neighborhoods or subdivisions.

Our local governments know our area as you do. None of the rules they have passed are over the top or too restrictive, but all will be thrown out if this law passes. You may recall this was a major issue here several years ago, these common sense laws put on the books by our county are fair..

The proponents of this bill say that local governments are overregulating and unfairly targeting vacation rentals. That is not true for our community. We support the reasonable regulations on the part of local government that are necessary to ensure our community values. We must protect home rule where we can. We've seen what happens when the federal government preempts state laws, and this is basically the same thing, but with the state trying to preempt local ordinance

We are not against vacation rentals in our area, but please let local governments control them so as not to disrupt our residential neighborhoods. Vacation rentals are not residences. They are businesses and should be treated as such.

Thank you for your time,



Mike Johannsen
Chairman, Indian River Neighborhood Association