

From: [Gary Helfrich](#)
To: [Alisa Sanders](#)
Subject: FW: Rezoning Vacation Rentals - Please don't do it!
Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:06:01 PM

From: Chuck Ganeless-Levine <cjlevine@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Gary Helfrich <Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org>
Subject: Rezoning Vacation Rentals - Please don't do it!

EXTERNAL

Dear Gary Helfrich,

As a former vacation rental owner, I remember going through a similar action by the county to restrict vacation rentals around 10 years ago. I don't think those proposed changes went through for the same reasons I don't think they should go through today.

The Russian River/Armstrong Woods area draws people from all over the country. This enriches the county, not only by bringing dollars in, but in so many ways by providing employment for the whole support structure of vacation rentals. Taking that away would hurt many people in the county.

There is very little alternative to vacation rentals in the Russian River area, as there is very limited hotel space. Also people greatly prefer to gather family and friends together under one roof where they can have more privacy and share meals together.

I agree that more housing is needed in the county, but this is not a good area for that. Whatever housing created here creates many gas miles for people to access shopping and healthcare. People shouldn't have to drive that far to take care of the important things in their life.

Also it should be understood that for many of us vacation rental owners this was OUR vacation home as well and not just a business. Many of us had to share our home with vacationers to help us be able to afford this vacation home for us.

Chuck Ganeless Levine

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