

Municipal Corp. of
Cape Charles

January 20, 2023

Virginia House Committee on Counties, Cities, and Towns
Hon. Delegate Keith Hodges, Chairman
Shared Committee Room, Pocahontas Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: HB 2271

Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the Committee,

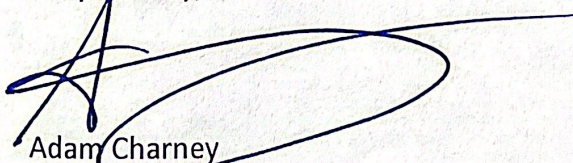
Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you consider House Bill 2271. The Town of Cape Charles has a significant number of short-term rental units. These STR's are an important part of our town and represent a considerable economic impact. So please do not misconstrue any of my comments as being anti-STR's. Rather, what is extremely concerning to us, is that this bill, if enacted, would decimate a local government's ability to respond to the unique needs of their citizens.

The circumstances, impacts, and benefits surrounding STR's are distinctly different for each community throughout the Commonwealth. To impose a statewide, one-size-fits-all solution to such a uniquely local issue, is not only a severe disservice to all constituents, but fundamentally erodes the very concept of local self-governance. Further, this specific bill would provide a targeted economic advantage only to licensed realtors, while creating an administrative nightmare for localities who could find themselves having to manage two different sets of STR rules.

Short-term rentals are real, and they're here to stay. The benefits STR's bring are also real, but so are their inevitable impacts to traditional residential lifestyles and the erosion on the availability of much needed long-term rentals and workforce housing. Nobody in Richmond could understand the delicate interrelation of all these things within a specific community as well as locally elected officials. Please do not strip us of this fundamental responsibility to protect the interests of all our residents and property owners.

The Town of Cape Charles therefore implores you to oppose HB 2271 and any other legislation that would restrict local control over the short-term rental industry.

Respectfully,



Adam Charney
Mayor

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