

Put-in-Bay Township, Ottawa County, Ohio

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Senate Local Government Committee and Chair O'Brien,

March 11, 2025

The Put-in-Bay Township Trustees are urging you to vote against the proposed Ohio Senate Bill 104. Although the bill appears to have some benefits for local governments in increased tax revenue, we feel that the negative impacts outweigh the benefits.

In a high tourism area, such as, the Lake Erie Islands, the demand for short-term rentals as investment opportunities could cause housing prices to increase dramatically. We already have issues attracting full-time residents to the islands due to the expenses associated with living on an island. Increases in housing prices will only create a decline in full-time residents.

In addition, an influx in short-term rentals could affect the character of the islands. Residents have a strong sense of community and pride for their island. Watering this down with short-term rentals will negatively affect this for the full-time residents. Part of the charm and allure of Put-in-Bay is its small-town feel and we don't want to see that be disrupted. The islands rely heavily on volunteers for various services and events. A transient population might not be as willing to help out in this area.

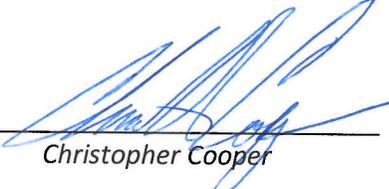
Lastly, we are very concerned about what an increase in short-term rentals would do to the infrastructure of the islands. Essential services, such as, water, electricity, waste removal, etc. might have a difficult time keeping up with the ever-changing demands that short-term rentals present.

The Lake Erie Islands have unique challenges and characteristics that separate us from most tourism areas. We ask that you exempt the Lake Erie Islands from this bill to help us preserve what makes the islands a destination for tourism and residents.

Respectfully,
The Put-in-Bay Township Trustees



Matthew Miller, Chairman



Christopher Cooper



Eric Engel