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June 18, 2023

Town of Santa Clara, NY
Town Council
State Route 30, Saranac Lake, NY

Dear Members of the Town Council,

This letter represents the Upper Saranac Lake Association's (USLA) thoughts relevant to the Town of Santa Clara's (ToSC) proposed Short Term Rental (STR) law after reflecting on the comments made during the June 8 public meeting at the town hall.

The Upper Saranac Lake Association represents over 500 members, most of which own property on the shores on Upper Saranac Lake, Fish Creek ponds and several ponds in the Saranac Inn area. The Mission of the USLA is to improve the quality of life for the Upper Saranac area. Our membership includes owners and tenants in the Upper Saranac watershed, their extended families and others who share our commitment to promoting environmental protection and the responsible and safe recreational enjoyment of our beautiful watershed.

Our members live full time or come to this area to vacation and relax with family and friends in an environment that includes clear waters, quiet evenings free of excess light and noise, and the congestion associated with more densely populated areas. Property owners have a substantial investment that is to be protected from conditions adverse to property values including both short and long term degradation of the area. Most short term vacationers who rent a property here have the same objectives, some of who are members of USLA.

It is well established in society that if you ask 20 people to solve a problem, you will get close to 20 different answers. One person's concept of logical and acceptable behavior is not the same as another's. As more people become involved, rules or laws have to be developed to spell out what is acceptable and unacceptable. Traffic laws were developed long ago for a safe environment as we travel. With the growing density of vacationers on the lake, bringing many ideas with them, guidelines need to be developed dynamically to guarantee both a pleasant and safe environment for all. So long as the rules are acceptable to the majority, fair to everyone and create the desired result, they represent good governance.



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In this case, USLA supports STR regulations that help maintain and facilitate the environmental protections core to the mission of the Upper Saranac Foundation and Lake Association organizations. These include but are not limited to water quality, noise and light levels and a well-balanced co-existence with neighbors. Additionally, it is essential to protect the residential aspects and use of our Adirondack community.

We completely understand and appreciate the several years' worth of work put into the proposed STR law by town personnel in getting the proposed law to this point. Recognizing that there will continue to be controversy over the law and its details, we remain confident the town will find a solution acceptable by the majority that will eventually result in a law that safeguards our environment and investments around the lake.

Sincerely

Larry Koch
President

Dave Powalyk
Vice President

Cc: Tom Swayne - USF