
Fw: Please Oppose Removing STR Regulations — Protect Our Community, Not Investors

From Jason Welker <jwelker@sandpointidaho.gov>
Date Tue 11/18/2025 7:55 AM
To Mandy Brown <mbrown@sandpointidaho.gov>

For PZC



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From: Ben Read <benr450f@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 7:21 AM
To: Jason Welker <jwelker@sandpointidaho.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose Removing STR Regulations — Protect Our Community, Not Investors

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Council member Welker,

I'm writing as a resident who is genuinely concerned about the direction our city is heading. Removing or weakening the current STR regulations would be yet another decision that puts outside investors' profits over the long-term wellbeing of the people who actually live here.

We've watched this pattern repeat itself enough times to recognize what's happening. The Russell Center debacle was a perfect example of how badly things go when the city prioritizes developer promises over due diligence and community impact. And now, as we're now finding certain Sandpoint individuals tied to investor-driven projects—Averill included—quietly benefiting from policies that

erode housing for locals, it's hard not to wonder whose interests are really being served.

People here aren't asking for special treatment—we're asking for basic stewardship. STR regulations exist because unfettered investor ownership destroys housing stock, destabilizes neighborhoods, and prices out the very workforce that keeps this city functioning. Pretending that removing these safeguards will somehow help Sandpoint is either deeply naïve or deliberately misleading.

You and the rest of the council have an opportunity to show that you represent the people who live here, not just the people trying to monetize it. Please stand against removing or weakening STR regulations. Our town is already feeling the consequences of looking the other way for too long. We can't afford more decisions that favor quick profits over a livable community.

I hope you'll choose to demonstrate that the interests of your constituents matter more than the interests of developers and investors with deep pockets.

Thank you for your time.

A Sandpoint Resident