Dear Councillors,

As an avid traveller, I would like to express my concern of the overreaching short term regulations that are being proposed. It honestly surprises me that a city like Winnipeg, is considering such harsh and unnecessary regulations comparable to the Toronto model. Winnipeg should be doing everything we can to encourage travel and tourism in our city, not make it more difficult or even undesirable. The World continues to open back up from the Covid-19 pandemic and people are eager to travel and reunite. I fear that the proposed regulations such as limiting them to your primary residence only and limiting the number of rentable days per year, would drastically impact the supply of short term rentals in Winnipeg causing us to lose out on a bigger portion of the multibillion dollar travel and tourism industry.

First off, Winnipeg is not Toronto. Our population, infrastructure, housing market and tourism industry is vastly different. I understand that a city as large as Toronto, who estimates to welcome over 27 million visitors annually, might be able to afford the negative financial impact of heavily reducing the number of short term rentals with overreaching regulations. However, the Economic Development Winnipeg website states the following *" The city attracts approximately 3.5 million annual visitors, resulting in an estimated $609 million in direct expenditure. This key economic sector employs more than 48,000 people, resulting in $2.3 billion in GDP. "* As a city we should be working towards increasing those numbers to benefit our residents and communities.

When I travel, I choose to only stay at short term rentals for many reasons. Firstly, I would much rather my money go to an individual or family versus a multimillion dollar hotel chain. Short term rentals are also more affordable, private and comfortable. It allows me to travel for longer periods of time, and I get to use a fully stocked kitchen. Yes, some hotel rooms have kitchens but they don't come close to comparing. I have also used short term rentals in the past for family dinners since my parent's live out of town and my small apartment at the time wouldn't accommodate our entire family. I have never seen a hotel room with a kitchen and dining space for 6 people at approximately $100/night. Not only are short term rentals my only choice of accommodation when I travel, but they are a great resource for locals to help reunite families, many of whom haven't had that opportunity since the pandemic.

I am in full support of short term rentals in Winnipeg and believe that the city should work with the operator's to find a balanced approach to regulations. It would be a shame to deplete our supply of short term rentals and ruin the industry as it continues to grow worldwide as the new norm and preferred accommodation for the modern day traveller. I hope to see Winnipeg move forward with a futuristic mindset.

Samantha Koop