

Village of Empire Deputy Clerk

From: Lawrence Epple <lepple@myflfs.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:44 AM
To: mryshry@aol.com; Sue Palmer; Maggie Bacon; Meg Walton; Tom Rademacher; Linda Chase; Chris Webb; March Dye; Derith Smith; Deputy Clerk
Subject: RE: Letter regarding short-term rentals in Empire

Dear Empire Village Council,

We have received communications in regards to my letter from November 14, 2023 and once again I would like to express how lucky and blessed each of our residents are to share the treasure of Lake Michigan and Sleeping Bear National Park. I do not believe this gift is one to be only enjoyed by the residents of our village.

During Covid, the number of visitors to the National Park and Dunes doubled, yet residents saw businesses close, shorten hours and change how they do business. We have recently experienced the remodeling of the gas station in town and how much we missed its convenience during the closure for renovation. A small village of 300 people needs outside stimulation for businesses to keep doors open.

I am not convinced that a statutory isolation to outside individuals, who come only to spend money and enjoy the amazing area is a bad thing. Please be prudent in your decisions, as they affect not only the residents, but also the businesses in Empire and throughout the area, as well as, the National Park.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Epple

VC 1/11/24