



March 21, 2020

The Honorable Jeff Backer and Robert Bierman  
Co-Chairs, House Health Finance and Policy Committee  
Centennial Office Building

RE: HF2147, Free the Hot Tubs

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Short Term Rental Association (MNSTRA), we strongly support **HF2147**, a bill that amends current state law to allow for the operation of hot tubs in single-unit rental properties across the state.

Any hot tub at a single-unit rental property in the state is currently required to comply with Public Pool requirements, including approval from the MDH. In reality, these current requirements mean that it is impossible to get MDH approval for an above-ground, residential hot tub because it fails to meet Public Pool standards. In essence, it is illegal in Minnesota to allow guests access to your hot tub at a single-unit rental property.

While historically, this has not been enforced by MDH, some counties like Cass County have determined to enforce. We had three owners in Cass County contacted via letter, informing them they had a few days to drain and/or lock up the hot tub to prevent guest use or face stiff fines because of the “inherent public health risk” posed by hot tubs. Meanwhile, in Crow Wing County, a county with 600+ short term rentals, no such communication has occurred.

The fact is that thousands of short term rentals operate hot tubs to guests, offering this sought-after amenity to their guests, without incident or “inherent public health risk”. Five-star guest reviews are critical for the success of these short term rentals because online platforms like AirBnB, VRBO and Booking.com heavily weigh guest reviews in their algorithms used to advertise and promote the properties to consumers. Short term rental hosts know this and do not want their guests showing up to a hot tub that is not clean or safe for guest use. It’s in their interest to maintain these hot tubs.

Furthermore, numerous states across the country allow for hot tub operation at short term rentals, representing thousands upon thousands of listings with hot tubs.

Hot tubs provide a revenue boost for owners/operators especially in the slower winter and fall seasons and allow listings to differentiate themselves from other properties. We agree with the testing requirements as outlined in HF2147 and feel this is the best practice already occurring at short term rental across the state. We strongly encourage you to support this bi-partisan bill.

David O. Liedl  
President  
MNSTRA