
Town of Clinton Hospitality Law Comment

1 message

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To: townclerk@clintondcny.gov

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 **Santha Cooke** <santhacooke@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

The excellent letter submitted by the Common Senses Hudson Valley citizen's group effectively summarizes the substantial and significant ways in which the currently proposed Town of Clinton Hospitality Law goes directly against *decades* of hard-fought local debate and decision making, the outcome of which has been Laws designed to protect the very social and environmental qualities which Six Senses, an outside corporate entity, wishes to cash in on. Six Senses proposes to extract the value we have preserved in our home town and carry it away to parts unknown, leaving our community the worse for their presence, like any kind of corporate mining operation would do. The consistent results of that kind of exploitation have been seen around the world. We in Central Dutchess are not a free 'grab bag' for anyone to come in and use for their benefit. We are an intact and connected rural-and-suburban community, and it is the right and the responsibility of local residents to foster, to care for, and to benefit from the what is here in this especially gifted area. The job of our elected officials is to look out for the interests of those who elected them and to help to weave the social, economic, and ecological fabric of our community more firmly together, in order to support the health and sustainability of our people, our natural resources, and our economically and socially connected community. For example, our Town Governments could make it easier rather than more burdensome for local residents to offer hospitality to visitors in a simple, non-destructive way, by removing onerous regulations on small businesses such as AirBnB's, instead of adding more layers of requirements, justifying these burdensome additional regulations based on scary stories about the disruption that small scale AirBnB's might cause. The impact of larger projects would be far worse, and yet somehow those same scary stories -- all the more real in the case of a large-scale development such as those currently on the table -- somehow don't seem to apply. The people in this area are competent and creative, and given support and appropriately protective constraints, are capable of providing hospitality services to visitors in ways that will not change the character of our community, undermine local small businesses or damage environmentally sensitive resources and areas. So far we, the residents of the central Dutchess townships have managed to sustain a rich and delicate balance -- social, economic, environmental -- that makes this one of the garden spots of the planet. It would be grievously wrong to disrupt that balance. The proposed Six Senses project threatens to do just that, and should not be allowed to go forward under any circumstances whatsoever.

Respectfully yours,

Santha Cooke, 3rd generation Clinton resident
Salt Point, NY
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