



Dear Elizabeth,

How can you help our local economy? Stop what you are doing right now and write Governor Ron DeSantis, let him know how the vacation rental ban is affecting you and your family personally, and ask him to open up all short-term vacation rentals without delay.

Our newly formed Destin Economic Recovery Task Force, whose sole purpose is to further the reopening of Destin's economy, needs your help. During the task force's first meeting today, the discussion centered around the suspension of short-term rentals in Northwest Florida and its effects on our friends, neighbors, customers and employers.

With this grassroots effort, we are asking you to write a personal note telling the Governor why the vacation rental ban is hurting Northwest Florida. Below are points to include showing that Northwest Florida is unique to the rest of the state:

- 80% of rental units in our community are short-term rental properties and nearly 35,000 jobs exist due to the short-term rental industry.
- The average daily number of cases and the percentages of positive cases continues to decline in Northwest Florida, and Okaloosa County only has .4% of the total number of COVID-19 cases in the State.
- The effect of the short-term rental ban reaches all levels of our business community – restaurants, gas stations, retail establishments, laundries, and all other business sectors.
- Our population alone is not large enough to support these businesses, even when these businesses can only operate at 25% - 50% of usual capacity.
- Destin is the #2 drive-to destination in the State, meaning that air travel into our community is low, keeping the probability of increased COVID-19 cases low.
- Because Destin is ranked second in Florida as a drive-to destination and because of our close proximity to other southeastern states, allowing in-state travel only to rent short-term rentals is ineffective for our community.

- All companies in the short-term rental industry should be allowed to open at the same time, not just the larger companies.
- Destin's fishing fleet, the largest private fishing fleet in the United States, will suffer dramatic losses due to the shutdown of short-term rentals, badly damaging Destin's heritage.
- Please view Northwest Florida differently than the rest of the state and allow short-term rentals to open during Phase 2 of your economic reopening of the State. Otherwise, our local economy could be severely crippled.

Please forward this to your employees, friends and neighbors and ask them to send an email as well. The Governor's email address is GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com. If you like, please cc mail@DestinChamber.com on your notes.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane A. Moody'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small 'Shane' written vertically above the first part of the signature.

Shane A. Moody, CCE, FCCP
President & CEO

DestinChamber.com | (850) 837-6241

