

My name is Pastor Pat Johnson. I live in Roebuck, South Carolina and am a member of the board at the Beach House Golf & Racquet Club in Myrtle Beach. The Beach House has 68 units, over 3,000 owners and has been effectively sold out since the 1980s.

As a sold out resort, most of our owners are the original purchasers of their weeks and have been coming back year after year for decades.

Many are older and retired and some now have fixed incomes. Our association board has voted not to raise the maintenance fee for the coming year knowing the economy has put a lot of pressure on some of our owners as we have already heard from owners who can't pay now.

We have an average annual fee of about \$480 at the resort. This plan would add about \$62 in sales and accommodations tax. That may not sound like a lot of money, but every dollar can push a few more owners over the edge and every owner that can no longer pay adds pressure on the association. If our budget comes up short we have to cut back or try to make up the difference next year from the remaining owners. Either

choice can cause more owners to walk away and create a downward spiral we won't be able to stop.

Effects aside, this new tax plan seems strange to me. In January of this year I paid property tax on the week I own. In July I rented my week and the renter paid accommodations tax as all rental guests should and as state law requires. Under this proposal as I understand it, I would also have to pay accommodations tax on my maintenance fee even though I did not stay in my unit this year. I would have been taxed twice and accommodations tax would have been charged twice on one stay. This does not make sense to me and I hope someone can explain it before moving this plan forward.

I do understand that this proposal is trying to find money to bring in more tourists because the state budget is tight. I also know a lot of owners in our association have tight budgets too. Taxing the same timeshare owners two and three times is not the right way to pay bringing more tourists to South Carolina. This new tax may drive away

some of our owners who have been coming for year with no guarantee that anyone will come to replace them. For these reasons, I urge this committee not to support this or any proposal to raise taxes on timeshare owners.