



**Peru Board of Health
3 E Main Rd
Peru, MA 01235**

Dear Honorable members of the Peru Select Board:

The Peru Board of Health is requesting support for moving forward with the creation of a bylaw by the Planning Board that regulates the use of RVs and campers parked on developed as well as undeveloped lots. We have received several complaints over the last few years about this matter. As you know the Board of Health is a complaint driven board and so we have dealt with these complaints as they arise. The main concern for the board of health is the use of RVs and campers on land lends itself to the potential improper disposal of waste water (gray water) and sewage (black water). There has been a past case that involved inadequate heating with a child residing on the premises. There are many properties in Peru where RVs and campers are parked and utilized from occasional use to more longer term use. We have also gained support from the Conservation Commission as this issue overlaps to their commitment to preventing the contamination of wetlands and waterways. From a financial stand point the town is losing revenue when the possible permit fees for temporary housing are not collected and the incentive to build a seasonal home with proper septic and well is lacking. The BOH has discussed the best route is for a bylaw to be developed by the Planning Board. A bylaw also prevents people from feeling they have been unfairly singled out with Board of Health actions and requirements. There are bylaws in other Berkshire county towns on this matter. It is not the intention of the BOH to outright ban these vehicles but if people will be allowed to park and utilize RVs and campers on land that they do so responsibly and safely. This proposed bylaw is also consistent with the spirit of Police Chief's Cullett's letter reminding residents of the Junked Motor Vehicle bylaw insofar as both are concerned with combating a potentially unhealthy environment.

We have been met with reluctance from the chair of the Planning Commission, Sam Haupt, as he states he has not received guidance from the select board on this issue. I am therefore sending you this letter and requesting to be placed on your agenda for 12/26/23 to discuss this with you. I will have our health inspector Val Bird present to answer any specific questions related to her expertise. My hope is that you will offer your support in moving forward in this process that starts with a meeting of the Planning Board and review of the issue and other town's similar bylaws that are in place.

The goal would be to have this new bylaw on the 2024 Annual Town Meeting warrant so that the town can vote on it.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Peggy White, Chair Peru Board of Health