

Dear Committee on General Housing and Military Affairs,

I do not support the state of Vermont over regulating short term rentals, to the point where it becomes extremely difficult for Airbnb hosts to pay rooms/meals taxes, earn a livable wage and recruit tourists.

This booming economy of short term rentals is far from a crisis in the state of Vermont. According to a VT Digger Article published February 2018, Airbnb paid more than \$2 million in Vermont state and local taxes between Oct. 2016 and June 2017. In fact, Airbnb currently pays rooms and meals taxes directly to Vermont for every reservation. In addition, hosts themselves pay state taxes on their earned income.

Furthermore, according to a VT Biz magazine article written in March 2017, *Vermont's 3,000 active Airbnb hosts earned over \$17 million dollars in supplemental income in 2016 by welcoming approximately 140,000 visitors to the Green Mountain State -- an 87 percent year-over-year increase in inbound guest arrivals.*

Ironically, many of the Vermont Bed & Breakfasts and Inns crying for an equal playing field, are actually using Airbnb and other websites to promote their own businesses, therefore being able to utilize all the safety tools Airbnb has to offer, including supplemental insurance, & customer reviews.

I cannot fathom why our state legislatures are trying to disrupt a prosperous economy of short term rentals, which brings millions of people and dollars into our poor state.

I recommend you all turn your attention to the lack of affordable, long-term housing there is in our state. That is a system that certainly could use better regulation.

Lisa Ford,
4 year Airbnb Host
Guilford VT,