



S. 210 TESTIMONY

Vermont Ski Areas Association

Molly Mahar, President

April 13, 2022

The Vermont Ski Areas Association is a non-profit trade association representing 20 alpine and 30 cross-country ski areas across the state. Skiing is a major economic driver, accounting for approximately a third of tourism spending. Two-thirds of the direct spending brought in by skiing occurs in the towns and communities surrounding the ski areas, so it is an important economic driver particularly in rural areas of Vermont.

We are supportive of the creation of a rental registry and agree that the state could benefit by having more data on short-term rentals to understand the quantity and location and their effect on housing availability across the state.

I would like to speak to the registration and fee requirements in S.210 as they would pertain to a subset of short-term rental units. These are rental units that are managed by Vermont-licensed lodging establishments.

Units in a rental pool managed by a Vermont-licensed lodging establishment:

- have maintenance and health and life safety requirements,
- have a subset of their inventory inspected as part of regular lodging inspections; these units are often condominium units or townhouses of similar construction,
- Meals and Rooms Taxes are remitted to the state,
- location and ownership data is known and available through the management entity, so owner communication can be facilitated,
- are rented largely to the travelling public and as such, do not have a negative effect housing stock availability.

Since short-term rental units that are professionally managed by a licensed lodging establishment meet the objectives of the registration requirement for data collection, health and life safety inspections, tax remittance and communication, we would like to request that these units be included under the Exceptions section of the Rental Housing Registration portion of section 1, which begins on page 4 of the bill as passed by the Senate. This could be accomplished by adding language to the exception for licensed lodging establishments on page 6 of the bill:

“(4) Licensed lodging establishment. The registration and fee requirements imposed in subsection (a) of this section do not apply to a lodging establishment, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4301, that is required to be licensed by the Department of Health, or to short term rental units managed by that establishment.”

We appreciate the Committee’s consideration of this request.