

Dear Chair Kornheiser, Vice Chair Canfield, and members of the House Committee on Ways and Means:

On behalf of the Travel Technology Association (Travel Tech) and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit [these comments](#) in opposition to Vermont's proposed Short-Term Rental language.

Travel Tech represents the leading innovators in travel technology, including online travel agencies (OTAs), metasearch companies, travel management companies, and short-term rental platforms. Our members' vital role in the travel and tourism industry empowers consumers, creates a fair and competitive marketplace, fosters accountability, and promotes positive customer experiences.

Vermont has and continues to derive a very real economic benefit from the presence of short-term rentals and the travelers who occupy them. Unfortunately, the 10% MRT STR surcharge proposed on March 13th raises significant concerns for both Vermont residents and those seeking to visit the state.

The proposed legislation would unfairly tax short-term rentals at a higher rate than hotels. Under [existing law](#), short-term rental facilitators are collecting and remitting taxes at a rate of 9% percent for hotels and lodging houses. In addition, several jurisdictions have levied a local option meals and room tax. The language proposed on March 13 would create an additional tax of ten percent for stays in short-term rentals—but not hotels—across Vermont. This significant surcharge would impede competition, giving an unfair advantage to national hotel chains and fewer lodging options to travelers in Vermont.

Furthermore, the proposed surcharge will result in decreased travel to Vermont, loss of Vermont jobs supported by short-term rentals, and loss of much needed income to local residents who run farmstays, glampsites, and other kinds of rentals.

With [these concerns](#) in mind, Travel Tech strongly urges the Committee to reject this 10 percent surcharge proposal —as well as similar pending bills—and work with stakeholders to develop a framework that meets the state's needs without unduly burdening individuals sharing their homes in order to make ends meet or businesses in the travel sector.

Many Thanks,

Laura

**Laura Chadwick | President & CEO**

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