

I have been hosting Airbnbs and Vrbos for the past 7 years. As an artist whose public work projects emphasize "bringing people and communities together", these rentals have provided my ONLY income during the COVID pandemic. Without it, I would have had to seek public assistance. Instead, I shared my housing spaces with a stream of wonderful people seeking safe places to stay during COVID. As I am now 70 years old, HB563 would ensure that I can support myself in the future. It gives me great pride to provide clean and beautiful housing with others. I also feel great pride in helping the economy of my rural community by bringing in people to enjoy what this beautiful part of Ohio has to offer. There are very few hotels in our rural area, so our short-term rentals bring quality guests into our area to support local businesses. Because Airbnb and Vrbo grade guests as well as hosts, the quality of guests is very high. I would gladly meet with lawmakers alongside other hosts, virtually or in-person to share my story.

Sincerely,

Carol Hummel