

I am very grateful that as a registered voter of Ohio that I still have the freedom of speech and the opportunity to provide testimony for HB563. I am retired from American Electric Power and have had the privilege to be a Host for AIRBNB for 3-1/2 years. I invested in a vacation cabin four years ago for the main purchase to provide a short-term rental and have the opportunity to meet people from all backgrounds of life, not only in Ohio, but from all parts of the country. This experience has provided income to help me pay for my investment and at the same time, to meet so many interesting people and learn of their lives and their families.

HB563 continues to support my ability as a Host for AIRBNB because it allows me to provide short-term stays. The benefit of short-term stays allows me to provide cleaning and sanitation of the cabin on a regular basis and maintenance, to meet different guests from many various areas across the country, and to receive more income (since long-term renters expect lower costs). Normally, as a Host I receive more income over a couple weekends or a partial weeks (3-4 days per week) than over a monthly period if I was to rent on a monthly period. The other benefit is that guests are normally looking for short-term vacations since there are various entertainment centers to visit in my area and in some cases, to visit family members or friends in the local area, attend weddings, celebrate birthdays, and other special occasions. Long-term stays are not usually for those purposes.

Therefore, the short-term stays benefit the community and local businesses much more than long-term stays. For example, various restaurants, State Parks, Historical sites, Amish Country, and many more businesses benefit from the guests visiting my local area. When my guests stay at my cabin they are always wanting referrals to local restaurants, retail and/or grocery stores, parks to visits, special entertainment areas, etc. I am actually providing business for local businesses in my area. Long-term stays do not benefit businesses as short-term stays do. Those guests who have inquired for long-term stays at my cabin were for the purpose of business, not vacation.

Currently, my AIRBNB income is to pay for my investment, in other words, paying off my cabin property. Then in the long term, the income will be for my retirement income.

I will not rent to guests for long-term stays because of the damage that usually takes place in a long term, preventing extensive cleaning and sanitation on a regular basis, and lower income and in some cases, putting up with disrespectful guests.

Just a few additional comments. Today, more than ever, guests are looking for private homes for short-term stays, rather than motels, hotels, lodges, etc., because they provide more comfort, privacy, and place to prepare foods when preferable, and relax inside or outside. Some believe that seeking private homes for short-term stays became a customary tradition in the 1950's, but if you study your history of this country, short-term rentals were common in the 1700's and 1800's.

Just in the 3-1/2 years that I have been a Host, I believe I have learned so much about what many guests are looking for today and I would be glad to share this with others. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Richard Morrison