

To whom it may concern,

I am a local business owner that invests in real estate on the side. My partner and I have grown our AirBNB business to operate 10 units in Northern Ohio. I love hosting guests. We have hosted such a variety of people and families over the years and feel we are playing a small role in the growth of our State. I would say that about half of our guests are not from Ohio; and an exceptional place to stay and experience is a key factor in the impression one has of a city they are visiting. AirBNB is all about customer experience and needs to be protected as an option for travelers. Many cities throughout the country have become pro-AirBNB in their regulations, or lack there of, and it pays dividends to the local economy. AirBNB is also a great tax revenue generating platform for cities as local hotel and lodging taxes are collected each stay. Furthermore, the costs associated with traditional lodging options, such as hotels, are vast. Employees work difficult hours, usually for low wages positions and the footprint of these buildings is massive. Also, revenue typical goes to large, multi nationally owned hotel chains rather than local hosts that live and participate in the local economy. We should be promoting AirBNB hosting the state of Ohio for the various reasons I have laid out above. I hope you are able to see that local municipalities should not be able to unilaterally ban activities like AirBNB when they a common practice throughout the world that travelers expect to have when they visit a new city. Let's stay current with this trend and not squash an emerging industry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Benner