



**VILLAGE OF HIRAM**  
**MAYOR LOU BERTRAND**

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Honorable Scott Wiggam, Chair  
State and Local Government Committee  
77 So. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Flr.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Wiggam,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some of our points of concern that brings us to oppose HB 563.

HB 563 would preempt local governments from regulating or prohibiting the use of short-term rental properties. This preemption of municipal Home Rule authority would prohibit my municipality from creating necessary regulations that protect the safety and best interests of the residents in my community

Local control as granted to municipalities in the Ohio Constitution ensures that a city or village can enact ordinances and regulations that reflect the will of its residents. If a municipality seeks to regulate short term rental properties, then that action is a direct reflection of the desires of the members of that community. Statewide preemptions such as HB 563 would prevent the residents of my municipality from being able to decide whether local policies regarding short-term rental properties are in the best interest of our individual community.

HB 563 would preempt the constitutional Home Rule authority that grants the residents of municipalities a voice in deciding what is best for the community they call home. It is critical that the state preserve local control. What works best for my municipality does not always work for another city or village. The government closest to the people governs best, and that is why we urge your opposition to this bill.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

*Mayor Lou Bertrand*

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