**SAMPLE LETTER THAT YOU CAN USE TO WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS**

*(Month, Day, Year)*

**{Legislator’s or local official’s name}**

**Representative District/State**

Mailing address)

**RE:** My {support for or opposition to} (*topic / bill)*

Dear ${*(Legvrvvislator’s name)*:}

As the owner of [*insert B&B name*] located in [*insert city or county and state*], I am concerned with the rapid growth of short-term rentals and the lack of regulation in our community. Bed and Breakfasts are subject to detailed health and safety inspections, providing proof of liability insurance and collecting room or transient tax. Such requirements are in the interest of maintaining public safety for the guests staying at lodging establishments and maintaining the needed infrastructure

[*insert your B&B name*] guests pay lodging taxes which adds to the marketing structure established to promote [*name your region, county, or city*]. Many guests of short-term rentals are not paying lodging tax, or hosts are not submitting the collected tax, resulting in a reduction of funds needed to promote [*name your area*]. Short-term rentals benefit from the infrastructure and the funds paid by lodging establishments without supporting the same tax base where they operate.

Required inspections are to ensure the health and safety of lodging guests. Short-term rental guests should receive the same protection as guests of any registered lodging establishment. In addition, in the case of an accident, the guests should be covered by the owner’s liability insurance. Like any other segment within the transient lodging industry, short-term rentals should be held to the same standards and contribute equally to the funds that promote their business as well as other lodging establishments.

Without such requirements, why would an owner go through the same process of licensing a traditional lodging establishment, and be subject to regulations and taxation, if they can merely list as a short-term rental, thereby avoiding these requirements?

Enacting adequate regulations for [*name your area*] should be readily achievable, as many other [*cities, counties*] of similar size and conditions as ours have successfully enacted such regulations.

Short-term rentals are already integrated into the lodging industry without being subject to current regulations and standards designed to protect public safety and paying taxes which benefits the community. These issues are long-standing and need to be addressed.

Sincerely,

*SIGN YOUR NAME*

*Print your name*

*Street address*

*City, State, Zip code*