



August 1, 2018

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing to urge you to sign House 4841: An Act Regulating and Insuring Short-Term Rentals into law in its current form. Making any alterations and sending the bill back to the General Court at this late date will effectively delay any legislative action till the 2019 legislative session. We can't afford to wait another year.

H. 4841 strikes a balance to support the growing short-term rental marketplace while creating reasonable regulations to protect residents, consumers, and communities.

This bill

- Levels the playing field by taxing short-term rentals and accommodations rented through hosting platforms like Airbnb at the same uniform tax rate imposed on stays at traditional brick-and-mortar lodging accommodations like hotels/motels/bed & breakfast establishments. A portion of this revenue will go to support affordable housing – a crucial need across the state.
- Preserves local control and ensures cities or towns are empowered to regulate operators of short-term rentals.
- Protects consumers by ensuring effective safeguards and requiring operators of short-term rentals and hosting platforms to maintain appropriate levels of insurance coverage.
- Enhances tax compliance and transparency by requiring operators of STRs to register with Department of Revenue and obtain certificate of registration just like all other hotel/motel operators do currently. It will also obligate those individuals or businesses who operate STRs to pay the room occupancy tax in the same manner as operators of hotels/motels bed & breakfast establishments.
- Will also ensure an enhanced level of transparency about individuals and businesses engaging in the accommodations industry by requiring the establishment of a registry under the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I can be reached at 617-721-7250 or joek@macdc.org if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Kriesberg
President & CEO