

The “Sharing” Economy: Issues Facing Platforms, Participants, and Regulators

Agency: Federal Trade Commission

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Sharing Economy Workshop: Project No. P15-1200

Submitted By: Ben Edwards, President, Vacation Rental Managers Association

Re: Against HB2618, An Act Regulating Short-Term Residential Units

The Vacation Rental Managers Association is a 30-year old trade association representing thousands of traditional vacation rentals across the United States and around the world.

We agree with the United States Conference of Mayors when they approved policy which states; “onerous regulations of short-term rentals can drive the industry underground, thus evading local regulations and local hotel taxes”.

The VRMA is working productively with local governments across the country to address tax collection and land use issues by educating property managers and owners on local laws, and government regulators on best practices.

Vacation rentals have been an American tradition for over a century and the positive impact of the industry affects communities across the country. Recent economic impact studies show communities with effective and easy-to-follow regulations achieve the greatest rate of tax compliance and job growth. And, best practices show that regulations that engage the property owner, or the professional manager acting as an agent of the owner, have the highest rates of participation.

The VRMA stands ready to assist the Federal Trade Commission with any discussions that could impact the professional property managers or the property owners of hundreds of thousands of vacation rentals in the United States.

Thank you,

Ben Edwards

President, Vacation Rental Managers Association

