



April 3, 2018

Members of the House of Representatives:

On behalf of the Visit Lebanon Valley Destination Marketing Organization, we urge you to support Rep. Doyle Heffley's HB 1810, which would require online home sharing platforms to register with the state to ensure proper remittance of state and local hotel occupancy taxes.

Online home sharing continues to increase in popularity with the rise of the "sharing economy" and the growing number of online platforms that facilitate these transactions. But many operators who offer this type of short-term lodging are unaware that they meet the definition of a "hotel" in Pennsylvania and are therefore required to collect and remit the appropriate taxes. This gives short-term rentals and unfair advantage over other forms of lodging, such as hotels and traditional bed and breakfasts that comply with state and local tax obligations.

Rep. Heffley's bill would require online companies such as Airbnb, HomeAway and VRBO to register with the state, and therefore be subject to the same audits and standards that existing hotels and bed and breakfasts must meet. This legislation is an important step to leveling the playing field among lodging providers.

Our organization does not oppose these online home sharing platforms, but if an individual is going to rent his or her home or in some cases, multiple units, to transient guests- they meet the definition of a hotel and therefore should be remitting proper taxes as such. Please support HB 1810. Thank you for your leadership and support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Kuzo". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Kuzo
President, Visit Lebanon Valley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josie Ames". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Josie Ames
Board Chair, Visit Lebanon Valley

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