

NetChoice *Promoting Convenience, Choice, and Commerce on The Net*

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Rep. Diane St. Onge
Kentucky House of Representatives
702 Capitol Ave
Annex Room 357B
Frankfort, KY 40601

March 1, 2018

RE: **Concerns with HB 383 – Creating new occupancy taxes**

Dear Rep. St. Onge,

We worry that HB 383 creates a new occupancy tax that goes beyond just home-sharing services to also impact online travel agents when they arrange bookings with hotels.

Cities and states favor hotel taxes since they fall mostly on visitors – not on resident voters. But HB 383 is not the right way forward for Kentucky.

This legislation creates a new taxing obligation on the “Travel or accommodation intermediary” – imposing potential state and local taxing requirements.

This broad term of “Travel or accommodation intermediary” also comes with several unintended consequences. For example, this term would encompass home-sharing posts on the University of Kentucky student website and on local neighborhood online bulletin boards. Likewise, this broad term would also capture online travel agents when they arrange bookings with hotels.

We are sure that capturing these groups are not your intentions. To that end, we welcome the opportunity to work with you on a more reasonable approach to home-sharing.

Nonetheless, we ask that you not move HB 383 as currently drafted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Szabo".

Carl Szabo
Vice President and General Counsel, NetChoice
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