

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

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Rep. Carol Alvarado, Chair  
Texas House Committee on Urban Affairs  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas

April 13, 2017

RE: **Support for HB 2551 - Regarding Regulation Related to Short-Term Rental Use**

Dear Chairman Alvarado and Committee on Urban Affairs,

We write to support your bill, HB 2551, as it will provide economic flexibility to the residents of Texas.

Based on existing Arizona law, HB 2551:

- Protects Texas residents' property rights,
- Creates mechanisms for easy tax collection and remittance, and
- Preserves localities' enforcement powers.

Short-term rental services provide necessary income to several of your constituents. Over 52 percent of hosts nationwide live in low-to-moderate income households. More than 48 percent of the income hosts earn through certain short-term rental services is used to cover household expenses.

Consider, for example, the resident who does not want to stay in Austin for South-by-Southwest. Short-term rental services allow these residents to getaway by sharing their homes and using that revenue for a trip out of town.

Adoption of HB 2551 ensures your residents to enjoy the benefits of short-term rental services.

#### *Protecting property rights*

HB 2551 clarifies the rights of Texas home owners to use their property for short-term rentals. We've seen how a similar clarification in Arizona allowed the short-term rental market to flourish, improved tax collection and protected communities.

We ask that you ensure your constituents' the right to earn extra money by sharing their homes.

We know that through HB 2551 we can enable home sharing regulations to the benefit of all. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on reasonable regulations that allow all to prosper.

Sincerely,

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

Carl Szabo  
Senior Policy Counsel, NetChoice

*NetChoice is a trade association of e-Commerce and online businesses. [www.netchoice.org](http://www.netchoice.org)*