



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

The Voice of America's Mayors in Washington, DC

On Thursday 6/14/12, this resolution unanimously passed the US Conference of Mayors Community Development and Housing Committee. On Saturday 6/16/12, it unanimously passed a vote of the full conference and is now the USCM policy.

PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE VISITORS INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States rely on local hotel taxes to promote travel and tourism and support the local visitors industry; and

WHEREAS, local hotel taxes often fund convention and visitors bureaus, convention centers, sports arenas and sports teams; and

WHEREAS, local hotel taxes often support local cultural programs including music, film, gaming, visual arts, dance and more; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can often be subject to hotel taxes; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can provide a flexible housing stock that allows family travelers spending longer periods of time in a community a safe accommodation while contributing to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can provide homeowners an opportunity to hold property as an investment, for a better sales market, or for future planning; and

WHEREAS, fair regulation of short-term rentals ensures greater compliance and greater receipt of local hotel taxes; and

WHEREAS, regulations of short-term rentals that establish a reliable way for a municipality to identify and contact the short-term rental owner, make the tax collection and remittance obligation clear and treat the short-term rental owner the same as long-term rental owners can achieve the highest level of compliance; and

WHEREAS, onerous regulations of short-term rentals can drive the industry underground, thus evading local regulations and local hotel taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for economic development opportunities through the visitors industry by encouraging regulations of the short-term rental industry that (1) establish a reliable way for the municipality to identify and contact the short-term rental owner; (2) make the tax collection and remittance obligations clear to the short-term rental owner; and (3) treat short-term rental tenants the same as long-term rental tenants. Regulations that accomplish all three can achieve a high level of compliance, and are highly effective.