

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
RI House of Representatives  
Committee on Corporations  
RI State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill No. 5505

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of the RI Hospitality Association, we write to express our strong support for H.5505, which would require a third-party hosting platform to register each short-term rental unit listed for rent in the state with the department of business regulation.


Home sharing has been around for decades, and we have always supported the rights of property owners to occasionally rent their homes to earn extra income. However, we have seen in Rhode Island and other communities across the country that the real face of short-term rentals are commercial landlords using unlicensed rental platforms to rent out multiple residential properties year-round, just like a hotel, while avoiding regulation.

The first step in regulating any businesses is determining where the business is located. This legislation is a relatively simply act, but will allow the state, and then the municipalities, to determine how many of these short term rentals exist in the state and the best way to regulate them moving forward.


If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarah@rihospitality.org](mailto:sarah@rihospitality.org) or 401-223-1120.

Sincerely,

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