

Dear Council-member Huizar, and to anyone else this may concern,

I'm writing in support of home-sharing legislation. I've been sharing my home in Eagle Rock for a little more than two years, and in that time I've been very fortunate to have experienced tremendous financial relief as a result. I don't know if I would have been able to stay in my home without this source of income. I have also had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people from all over the world... many of whom would have never visited Eagle Rock, or even the city of Los Angeles, without having this affordable option available to them. These beautiful "guests" of my home, my community, and our wonderful city have contributed so much to our personal, local, and broader economy... these are dollars spent here that without the concept of home-sharing, would have never touched down in this area.

Thank you for your time and consideration... with great respect...

Jerry Hannan

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Jerry Hannan
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To Council Member Mike Bonin and LA City Council Members,

I am a 6-year Los Angeles resident, taxpayer, entrepreneur, and AirBnB host. I have been involved with numerous startup companies that incorporated in the city of Los Angeles, as well as my own LLC.

Two years ago, I was primarily a freelance contractor, but most of my clients were unreliable. However, in that time, being a host for visiting guests via AirBnB was absolutely indispensable to me being able to reside in Los Angeles, as well as providing the necessary means to pay for the initial startup costs and filing fees required to form my business. I can say with certainty that my AirBnB income was able to fund the starting costs of a local business.

Additionally, in that year, nearly half of my guests (in terms of time-spent on premises), stayed with me not as a means of vacationing, but to find permanent residence while they work their new Los Angeles-based jobs, or to pursue semester-long internships either at UCLA or with companies based here. With access to a kitchen, my guests are able to affordably prepare meals according to their dietary needs on their schedule. Not only was AirBnB essential for my own well-being, but for short-term residents who can't afford long-term hotel stays, or school housing.

In the time that I have been a host, every one of my guests have been respectful of neighbors and the local residents. It has never been necessary to remind guests to stay quiet in the late evening, to pick up after themselves, to not block parking spots, or in any way cause a nuisance: all guests from other states and other countries naturally know to be respectful and peaceful while they visit, and frankly are too busy working, learning, and sightseeing to cause a disturbance in residential neighborhoods.

Upon checking in, my guests are given maps for all of the local bus routes. When they need to rent bicycles long-term, I direct them to another "sharing economy" bicycle rental website, thereby providing income opportunities to my neighbors. My AirBnB listing includes dozens of local restaurants I recommend everyone try out. A personal trainer gave me a stack of day-passes for the local gym that I disperse to guests who want to stay in shape while they're visiting. This means both local commercial facilities and enterprising individuals are acquiring new customers that would not have occurred had they stayed in hotels.

The economic benefits toward local and small businesses provided from homesharing are too great to overlook. Hotels are fantastic outlets for vacationers and tourists, and are not mutually exclusive with homesharing; I continue to use commercial hotels and residential AirBnB homes, depending on price and convenience for both. As a guest, I walk to shops, restaurants, and grocers I simply would never have been aware of, on streets and neighborhoods I never would have been aware of, thanks to homesharing.

My residence and employment in L.A. has been contingent upon the income I have earned as a homesharing host. All of the guests who have stayed with me and contributed to the local economy, either temporarily or permanently, have done so because of the price point this service offers. With L.A.'s high cost of living, I have no doubt these skilled individuals would have sought opportunities elsewhere.

Please consider my story when making your decision.

Kind regards,
Brandon