

Dear City Council:

Airbnb is a service that allows me to be a good ambassador for the City of Los Angeles for guests coming to our city from other states and countries. It allows me to provide them with very personal guidance and care that they would otherwise not experience at hotels. And if it wasn't for this service, there are many, many tourists that would not visit here due to the expense.

I'm proud of Los Angeles and, as it is a second home for me, I go out of my way to demonstrate the benefits, show the better spots and even act as tour guide for the novice visitor.

I'm a second career actor/writer. Without airbnb I would have to leave the city and most probably the entertainment field. Without this company and the service they offer, I wouldn't be able to ply my trade and make a serious, long term effort toward a contribution in the arts.

I live in East Hollywood and, like other neighborhoods in Los Angeles, the rent has escalated appreciably. My landlord is a housebound elderly woman of minority status who has a special needs adult son. Airbnb allows me to offset my rental expense which in turn helps me to be a stable, consistent rent payer and to help support this woman and her adult children in their later years.

In the process of hosting, I have hosted people from the Netherlands, Latvia, Canada, Asia and a number of other states and countries.

Recently, I hosted a few students who were finishing up at Emerson College in Entertainment-related studies. One graduate has secured a full time job in the area in entertainment and the other has relocated here and is commencing full time work as well as developing as a comedian. With both of these people, I made industry connections for them, knowing that the path in this profession is not always as visible and navigable as one might think.

While I will host to any qualified guest, I let prospective guests know that I can be of help with guidance and support concerning the entertainment field. This level of domain knowledge, service and care does not exist at the hotel level.

Please consider Angelenos like me when you make your decision regarding the home sharing bill. We are creating a richer, more connected experience for visitors that has them wanting to return as well as tell their friends to come. Ultimately, our efforts serve to keep Los Angeles in the limelight as being one of the world's great cities.

Best wishes on a mutually agreeable outcome.

Sincerely,

Dennis Mattai