

Dear Councilman Blumenfield,

I must be clear that I am decidedly AGAINST SB593. I don't doubt it might be good for hoteliers and some other big businesses, but this piece of legislation, as I see it, is bad for California, bad for small business, and certainly bad for ME.

I have lived in my home for over 25 years, so, obviously, I endured being at the epicenter of the earthquake in 1994. (My home is less than three blocks away from the epicenter). I really love my home, and it has been the site of many wonderful community-building events, parties, and meetings.

That being said, it's expensive to own a home. I put in solar power in my home, and am currently landscaping it – to meet the needs of our lengthy drought. I'm hoping for financial help from the SoCalWaterSmart/Metropolitan Water District, but nothing is guaranteed, of course. Last month, I had to repaint part of the house, and soon will finish the job. Several thousands of dollars later, I found myself ALSO having to do some retrofitting of the foundation. As if this were not challenging enough for this month's expenses, a large pine tree died and that cost \$1500 to remove. During the summers, I generally like to visit my girlfriend – who lives in Spain. We met in high school, and then were out of contact for 30 years. I'm so happy to be able to afford to visit her.

Without the opportunity to earn a bit of money from home-sharing, many of these things simply COULD NOT HAPPEN. The relatively small amount of money that I can earn, for a few months a year – makes a HUGE difference, to me. I've really enjoyed meeting and hosting the families who've stayed at my home. One single mother, with her young daughter was leaving a bad situation back east, and was VERY grateful to have a nice home to stay in; I'm expecting a small family soon who want to stay in a real HOME, not a hotel, while the teenage boys are taking special classes nearby my house. Last summer, a father who'd been living in a hotel, stayed here with his wife and two children. I get to unite families – perhaps that's being grandiose, but ...I really don't think so. Home sharing creates a completely different energy and sense of community than hotels, motels, and the like

As I mentioned, I'm re-landscaping the front and back yards, and this is making the whole neighborhood aware of the need to get rid of lawns, and yet still keep their homes and yards ATTRACTIVE. Because it's helpful to my clients, I have created a list of local businesses that I recommend, and that they can use, which is good for everyone. Neighborhood markets, restaurants, and yes, even shopping malls (which I rarely frequent, to be honest).

I should think that allowing home-owners to gain a small amount of money is a VERY good thing, and we DO pay taxes on this income, so it helps the state out that way, too.....At the same time, I can imagine that it's affecting hotel-owners, and they are upset. (There are relatively few hotels in my area, frankly, so my fellow home-sharers are not taking business away from any hotels, anyway.)

It would be a shame, and a tragedy for me, and many of us home-owners – if this piece of legislature goes through.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB593.

Sincerely,

David Joyce