

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

I must be clear that I am decidedly **AGAINST 14-1635-S2**. 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 **14-1635-S2**

Sincerely,

David Joyce

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David Joyce

SARAH JOHNSON

6822 MATILJA AVE, VAN NUYS, CA 91405

August 1, 2015

RE: File Number: #14-1635-S2

Good day, Councilman Krekorian-

I am one of your constituents and would like to take a moment to address my concerns about the upcoming vote on File Number: #14-1635-S2, home sharing. Whether it is an apartment, condominium or house, a home is the most intimate thing a person has. It is their place to share with loved ones and it is their refuge. When I was purchasing my first house, I wanted something that would be great for entertaining and provide solitude. I found this in Van Nuys. Surrounded by fruit trees with wrap-around porch, the home is perfect for me. The American Dream of home ownership almost came to an abrupt halt in March of 2013 when the judge of the TV court show I was working on decided not to renew his contract. The show wrapped the week after I closed escrow. With no spouse to help with the mortgage and no show, I hurried up and rented a room through a local church. It was okay, but not ideal. Then a friend introduced me to home sharing.

Home sharing was/is the perfect fit for me. It allows me to work part time and freelance full-time while making me a better neighbor. In order to give my guests the best experience possible it is necessary to explore my neighborhood. One thing I am very proud of is that I am able to provide a safe and nurturing home to people who use my house as their launching pad to get established in Los Angeles. I remember how difficult this move was and I am happy to make their transition easier. This is something they can't get from staying at a hotel or from a landlord.

There are many benefits to home sharing. Home sharing has allowed me to reinvest money to make upgrades to my home and my guests spend money in the community. Above all, the biggest benefit I receive is that home sharing has allowed me to keep my house and fulfill the American Dream of homeownership. While legislation is inevitable and necessary, I wanted to lend my voice to the chorus. I am not a hotel chain; I am an individual who benefits from home sharing and I am asking you to help draft fair legislation for home sharers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, your constituent.

Sarah Johnson

Councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

Cc to the city clerk

Sharon.dickinson@lacity.org