



City of Austin

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-1088

April 19, 2023

Re: Testimony against C.S.H.B. 2665

Dear Chairman Burns and members of the House Land & Resource Management Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on C.S.H.B. 2665 relating to regulation of short-term rental properties by municipalities and counties.

We appreciate that the committee substitute proposes a more balanced study that represents the requests of the industry with the needs of the homeowner. In particular, we are pleased to see that the C.S.H.B. 2665 includes the following items that were of concern to the City:

The Task Force under Sec. 92.362 should include at least one member that represents:

- A homeowner that has been impacted by STRs, and

The report required by Sec. 92.364 to include at least the following items:

Summary:

- Findings regarding the prevalence of unlicensed STR operators,
- Reports related to complaints and 311 OR 911 calls related to STR violations, and
- Enforcement challenges experienced by cities with STR regulations.

Legislative recommendations:

- Amend subsection (2)(i) to read “potential benefits and costs of giving certain regulations impacting short-term rentals statewide applicability, including the impact of losing local regulations such as land use.”,
- Ways the State can support local enforcement of reoffending properties and the collection of HOT, and
- Accountability of platforms regarding the registration and payment of HOT taxes of their membership

The one item that we respectfully request you give consideration to amending is that the Task Force under Sec. 92.362 include at least one member that represents a municipality that regulates STRs.

We appreciate that the study in C.S.H.B 2556 provides a more balanced approach to addressing STRs in Texas and look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue of most importance to the City of Austin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brie L. Franco" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brie Franco
Intergovernmental Relations Officer
City of Austin