



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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**HAWDC Supports Legislation to Regulate
Short-Term Rental Housing Market**

(Washington, D.C.) In response to a lack of a regulatory scheme for short-term rental housing, DC Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Chairman of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, introduced the "Short-Term Rental Regulation and Affordable Housing Protection Act of 2017." HAWDC supports this bill that would provide a commonsense and workable framework for homeowners seeking to rent their properties on home-sharing services like AirBnB and VRBO.

Under current law, homeowners are merely required to apply for a Basic Business License (BBL), which unfortunately, many homeowners fail to obtain. The bill will allow homeowners who obtain a special license, designed specifically for short-term rentals, to rent their properties while ensuring that homeowners comply with District regulations and health and safety standards. The goal of the legislation is to rid the market of commercial property owners who rent multiple housing units and serve as de facto hotels without complying with the myriad of regulations that traditional hotels have to comply with, all while depleting the supply of affordable housing for District residents.

The bill does not seek to prevent the average homeowner who seeks to rent his or her property to earn extra income from listing their property on a home-sharing website. Any District homeowner would be allowed to continue to rent their property on a home-sharing website, as long as they are also present in the home during the short-term rental stay and they receive a license from the District.

"The hotel industry does not seek to limit District residents from sharing their homes with travelers that come to our city," says Solomon Keene, President & CEO. "However, it is important that those renting their properties abide by District regulations. More importantly, it is unreasonable to allow commercial property owners to list multiple units on these short-term rental platforms to operate free of any regulatory scheme and compete with hotels that have to comply with a robust regulatory structure. These businesses are not only allowed to operate without any oversight, but they are interfering with the supply of affordable housing units that should be available to District residents."

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Established in 1906, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC (www.hawdc.com) is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of member hotels in the District of Columbia on a variety of governmental and public affairs issues.

AH&LA (www.ahla.com) is a 93-year-old federation of state lodging associations throughout the United States with some 11,000-property members worldwide, representing more than 1.5 million guest rooms. AH&LA provides its members with assistance in operations, education, and communications, and lobbies on Capitol Hill to provide a business climate in which the industry can continue to prosper. Individual state associations provide representation at the state level and offer many additional cost-saving benefits.