



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 28, 2023

The Honorable Shannon Latham
Chair
Local Government Committee
Iowa State House of Representatives
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Cindy Golding
Vice Chair
Local Government Committee
Iowa State House of Representatives
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Honorable Ako Abdul-Samad
Ranking Member
Local Government Committee
Iowa State House of Representatives
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: HF 296, Relating to Regulation of Short-Term Rental Properties by Counties and Cities, TechNet Oppose

Dear Chair Latham, Vice Chair Golding, Ranking Member Abdul-Samad and Members of the Local Government Committee:

I am writing on behalf of TechNet to respectfully share our concerns with HF 296 on behalf of our members and the negative impacts this bill will have on short-term rental platforms, the hosts that offer their properties on these platforms, and the consumers who use these services.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

HF 269 would undermine Iowa's welcoming spirit as a leader in innovation by creating hurdles for Iowans to rent their home out to guests without the fear of a ban on short-term rentals in their communities. The bill erodes a necessary protection for the ability of residents to create passive income opportunities using one of their largest assets. As a result, Iowa's tourism industry would lose additional alternative lodging methods – thus also diminishing demand and

tourism within the state.

Establishing a statewide, uniform standard provides a reasonable statutory and regulatory framework for all of Iowa – which supports the underlying and future innovation inherent in the peer-to-peer sharing industry. Iowa property owners and its visitors benefit from the current prohibition on the unnecessary ban of short-term rentals by local government. HF 296 removes this prohibition, especially by establishing a threshold for cities and counties of at least 75,000 residents that effectively includes almost all cities and counties in the State of Iowa. For this reason, we must oppose HF 296 on behalf of our members and ask the Committee to not advance the bill.

Thank you for your engagement on this issue and for your commitment to working to protect Iowans and the innovative platforms that enrich their economy. Please reach out with any questions or further information that TechNet can provide on this matter.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruthie Barko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ruthie Barko
Executive Director, Colorado & the Central U.S.
TechNet

Cc: Members of the House Local Government Committee