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Testimony in Support of HB 2513
House Taxation Committee
Monday, February 10, 2020

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Divyesh Patel and I am here on behalf of the Topeka Lodging Association and as a business owner. I have been involved in the lodging industry in Kansas for 16 years in many different capacities. We support the passage of HB 2513 because it properly realigns the taxation burdens.

The hospitality industry has evolved in the past few years, with the various internet-based platforms including those like AIRBNB. This issue is not about a start up being small to succeed, but now rather how a small facilities-based hotel can survive by paying a significantly higher tax rates than a \$38 billion company.

We are not requesting the AIRBNB room nights be treated fairly by making them subject to the same regulations of building codes, property taxes and the myriad of other requirements. But we are asking that both industries should be on equal footing and the state as a regulator should either tax both or tax neither. This is one step closer to leveling the competitive field.

38 States have enacted legislation requiring tax collection on AIRBNB properties to realign the tax codes to equal the competitive field.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.