

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

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Robert Bergquist and I am here on behalf of the Topeka Lodging Association. We support the passage of HB 2513 because it properly realigns the taxation burdens on the always changing lodging marketplace.

The Hospitality industry is always evolving and in the past couple of year we have added the AIRBNB option for travel. As AIRBNB has grown to an estimated \$38 Billion, they are here to stay and compete with both economy hotels and luxury hotels. 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.

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

The transient guest taxes that are collected help to bring more travel to our cities which helps All the hotels and also the AIRBNB's. Since they benefit from the tax that hotels are collecting now they should also be collecting that same tax.