



*To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*

## **SENATE BILL 463: Business Regulation - Limited Residential Lodging**

### **BUDGET AND TAXATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

### **SUPPORT**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports Senate Bill 463**. This bill will make sure individuals renting their homes commercially for short-term periods through websites like Airbnb or Homeaway follow any existing county-level rules and sign up to collect taxes properly. Its passage is important to create a level playing field for other lodging businesses, maintain neighborhood safety and protect property values.

New technologies and new ways to deploy that technology make for a dynamic marketplace. Maryland laws must be able to keep pace with those changes. The popularity of short term residential rentals/limited residential lodging is growing among hosts and customers. This generates significant economic activity that is taxable. The revenue is important to general services including infrastructure and public safety, both areas that are used by visitors and residents alike. The proposed measure will permit this activity to take place throughout the state while also ensuring taxes are properly collected by giving tax collectors access to rental data.

Montgomery County continues to develop local policies for short-term rentals that conform to zoning and community use. The Montgomery County Government would be well-served by this state-wide support for registration, compliance and enforcement, especially as it pertains to the process for collection of taxes and the ability to deny the activity to unregistered or out of compliance hosts when problems arise.

This bill will contribute to an environment where new forms of income generation and new ways to accommodate short term visitors can be managed most effectively and efficiently.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 463.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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