



March 25, 2019

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Chair, House Human Services and Housing Committee

Re: HB 3359

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Expedia Group family, including vacation rental leaders HomeAway and VRBO as well as brands such as Hotels.com, Expedia.com, and Hotwire, I write to express concern over the task force membership proposed in HB 3359.

Expedia Group is the world's travel platform. Whether someone is traveling for two days on business, a long weekend family vacation, or a three-week medical stay, Expedia Group brands help connect them with the travel experience that best suits their needs.

Vacation rentals have been part of Oregon's lodging ecosystem for generations, providing families with affordable and versatile options outside of traditional tourist cores. We are concerned therefore that the task force proposed by HB 3359 includes only one representative from the vacation rental industry; meanwhile, the bill reserves one seat on the task force for the hotel industry (a group that typically views vacation rentals as competition in the lodging market), and another for the Oregon Tourism Commission, a group disproportionately made up of hoteliers.

We appreciate the Legislature's intent to create a deliberative and data-driven task force to examine vacation rental policy. Given this goal, we respectfully urge the Committee to increase the number of task force members from the vacation rental industry to at least one member representing a vacation rental platform and another representing the thousands of Oregon homeowners for whom a short-term rental is vital part of their household economy. Additionally, while hotels are an important part of the conversation and we do not oppose a member from the industry, we encourage you to ensure that the task force member representing the Oregon Tourism Commission *not* represent a hotel, resort, or hotel management / hospitality group.

Please feel free to contact me at rilazaro@expediagroup.com or 206-660-8227 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard de Sam Lazaro
NW Government Relations, Expedia Group