





HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

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To: HANYC – Member Hotels
General Managers, Human Resource Directors and Controllers

From: Joseph E. Spinnato, President 
Vijay Dandapani, Chairman 

DATE: Thursday, June 16, 2016

Re: On Line Bill Support –
Lanza/S.6340-A, Rosenthal/A.8704-C

Please ask your Members and Associates to please contact their Assembly Member either by phone or via email, only if they live in New York regarding this very important on line bill Lanza/S.6340-A, Rosenthal/A.8704-C which is a very critical issue.

Please see attached, the entire Crain's New York Business article, "Big Tech launches air attack to support Airbnb".

Thank you.

** Will print automatically! If it doesn't, click [here](#). **

CRAIN'S

NEW YORK BUSINESS

Big Tech launches air attack to support Airbnb

The Internet Association, which also represents Amazon, Google, Uber and Ebay, targets Albany bill in radio ads

Rosa Goldensohn

Published: June 15, 2016 - 6:49 pm

The cutting-edge giants of Silicon Valley have launched a very 20th-century defense of their corporate brother, Airbnb.

The Internet Association—whose 40 members include Google, Facebook, Netflix, Ebay and Etsy—bought a chunk of radio time Wednesday to denounce state legislation that would prevent absent renters from advertising short-term apartment sublets. The legislative session is set to end Thursday.

The group's ad is running on three stations in the city, two in Albany, and one on Long Island. It says the bill would "stifle innovation" and blames "the giant New York City hotel industry."

"Home-sharing technology companies allow New Yorkers to share their home with visitors and make extra money to pay the bills and save for the future," the ad says.

But the Albany bill's proponents say it targets commercial operators of illegal hotels, which take apartments off the regular rental market and squeeze New York's infamously tight housing market. It is unlawful in New York to rent out an unoccupied apartment for less than 30 days at a time. The bill would make listing such offers on Airbnb or other venues illegal.

It would not prevent New Yorkers from listing or renting out a room in an apartment that they occupy, or listing an unoccupied unit for a term of at least 30 days.

The city hotel owners' association and the local Hotel Trades Council union back the bill, saying illegal rentals cost them business and deny governments tax revenue, and that the rentals are not subject to the strict health and safety standards that hotels are.

The five-figure ad buy marks the Internet Association's first foray into New York politics. The group is running a similar defense of Airbnb in Chicago, a spokesman said.

The bill's Assembly sponsor, Linda Rosenthal, D-Manhattan, criticized the ad buy.

"Airbnb and its allies have spent an astonishing sum of tens of millions of dollars over the last few years, so this is no surprise," she said in a statement. "But the voices of everyday New York residents will prevail over big-money tactics and practices that rob us of affordable housing."

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