

RE: Airbnb experience

Commentary: Thank you for the opportunity to comment, though it is not clear why Airbnb, though along with other business innovations, is being examined given it provides for a 1099 for those participating and in terms of airbnb has appropriate safeguards in place.

Please avoid making U.S. citizens lives more complex by adding layers of unnecessary laws/regulations that preclude offering the airbnb option - for those simply offering an opportunity to meet people from all over the world and have a place to stay overnight. It is about personal freedom to stay in locations other than a hotel, with safeguards in place that support the traveler making informed decisions.

Summary: Airbnbs' approach to offering travelers a unique and safe experience has considerable positives. It is in essence like friends visiting as it is only a few people in a person's home under very controlled circumstances. There is full disclosure to the traveller to maximize a good experience/match for what they are looking for. Some of the positives:

- Local economy benefits by more visitors
- Individuals who would not have travelled increase their traveling as they want a more personable experience and pricing to align with their budget
- All parties are vetted, person visiting and person offering accommodations (or in our case an "off-the-grid experience" because we believe the best way to foster alternative energies are for people to personally experience). In addition to airbnb verifying the traveler through a verification process, no location information is given unless a booking with traceable credit card. Both the traveler and the person offering airbnb services are rated after a visit.
- The online booking gives information on home's safety – "child friendly", carbon monoxide, first aid kit, smoke detector, etc... so a person knows exactly what the home has.. which is more than I know when I stay overnight at a friends house.

For my husband and I it is about a number of things:

- **Meeting people**
- **Providing people an 'off-the-grid' experience**
- **Small supplemental income as very difficult these days as costs increase, taxes increase and other negative aspects to include extensive complexities that put us all at risk**

Meeting people

We have met amazing people that have really been reassuring and quite honestly makes you feel like a US ambassador. Our lives are enriched, we feel like we have travelled, vicariously experiencing things we will never see and experience. Yes, some guests, just want solitude – the airbnb web platform very specifically provides for guest spelling out whether a guest can easily avoid the host if they want solitude and one communicates anonymously until host and guest decide it is good mutual fit. We have met people from

- Cuba
- Sweden
- Africa
- Australia
- China
- Japan
- England

These individuals are now friends, which is an experience that is not an option with a hotel/motel. The people who visit airbnb would likely not have traveled.... We had a couple this weekend visiting family, if this was not an option they would have crowded in with their family, but this gave them an win:win option. They would never have rented one of our local hotels, which are often not vacant. They did however go eat out a number of times in the local community. Airbnb is not an either hotel or airbnb, it is often not taking the trip. It provides people an opportunity to take a longer trip and be in an area longer – good for local economy.

We have also met people with differing experiences:

- Couple who were both deaf
- Full age spectrum, except we identify home as not childproof – right in the airbnb amenities
- Exchange student visiting the US

We met a couple whom where the spouse had his mom die in a house fire; my husbands mom died in a house fire... they formed a bond and some solitude around the similar experience – wow, what are the odds!

We have a couple coming this week, and it turns out we both have our wedding anniversaries on the same day.

The couple who was deaf we learned a lot about how best to communicate and the rich experiences they had.

When a person wants to discuss health I love discussing tips about this. I have suggested books and CD's and the person has texted back they went to get them and thank you.

Reviews – transparent review of people who visit as well as host, including information to airbnb only so they can take steps. I am in awe by the airbnb process – excellent so safety for both parties and information to make an informed decision. People don't just get to decide if they stay, I as a host get to so if I have any concerns.. they forgot to tell me they smoke or have unreasonable expectations I can relay information.

People who are selecting location know if the host has provided 1-5 star experiences.. I get more information about people who are staying then those who are next door to me in hotel room – I have no idea there.. more information than I know about my relatives! I

Providing people an 'off-the-grid' experience

- Our goal is to provide an experience in an energy efficient, environmental friendly experience so people can see that an 'off the grid' experience is a real option for homes.
- Our goal is of course to have a profit margin, though that may be a few years out as we build the opportunity and provide for more

Small supplemental income as very difficult these days as costs increase, taxes increase and other negative aspects to include extensive complexities that put us all at risk.

There is not a large profit margin, though fits criteria for home office/home business, but it does take an investment and will for awhile, however is ideal for eventual retirement to meet people and make a few dollars. The effort is quite large with coordination, cleaning, etc. so on an hourly basis not

significant, but in terms of intangibles and a few extra dollars which of course are claimed, along with legal deductions. As hosts we offer a unique experience on what like to be in a home off the grid, not lodging.

To specifically address some issues that may be raised:

Food: Guest often bring their own food placing it in the refrigerator; meals are often not served as part of it or just have yogurt, etc. A person can easily look a yogurt and see if outdated. I offer breakfast if fixing anyway, at cost – by breakfast a guest would know if they felt comfortable, but again no different than if I go to a friends or family and they fix a meal – the expectations are similar.

Tonight I have a guest and we are making dinner together. This is pretty common – I can't imagine a better way to better understand each other on this planet than through sharing an inhome experience. They are coming back to the area, from over 1,000 miles away because their first visit was too short – they would not have come back if they hadn't had an airbnb experience... they like the in-home experience.. I hope you are starting to understand the niche that airbnb fills that is unique, not previously filled.