



City of Seattle

December 15, 2017

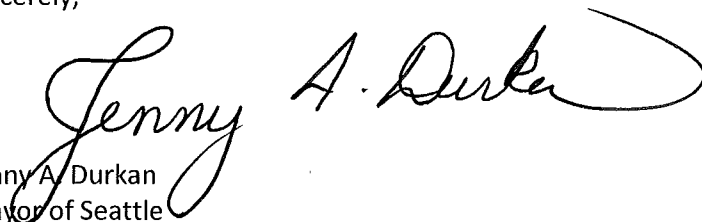
Monica Martinez Simmons
Seattle City Clerk
600 4th Avenue, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons,

I have signed and am returning Council Bill 119081. This legislation sets up a new regulatory framework for short-term rental properties in the City of Seattle. While I agree that new regulations are necessary to preserve affordable housing and protect neighbors, I am concerned that the complexity of the regulations and tax structure may inhibit compliance. The Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) will also take on an administrative burden that requires significant new resources on an ongoing basis. It would have been my preference to shift more of this burden to the short-term rental platform operators, or to simplify the legislation, with the goal of alleviating or streamlining administrative requirements for both the City and the platforms.

By returning this signed legislation, I understand that it will become law, but I hope to revisit these concerns in 2018. FAS's report to the Council's Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee, due on June 1, provides an opportunity for me to potentially recommend a revised approach to implementation and fee structure.

Sincerely,


Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle