

Chris O'Brien

From: Joseph Solomon <josephbp2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 3:03 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Opposition to H8183 - Rental Tax Proposal

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 8183, which proposes a five percent (5%) tax on the rental of houses or condominiums, particularly short-term rentals. While I understand the necessity of funding for infrastructure improvements, riverine and coastal resiliency, and housing, I believe imposing this tax on renters is not the right solution.

1. **Impact on Renters and Owners:** This proposed tax would place an additional financial burden on renters and owners, many of whom are already grappling with rising housing costs. It jeopardizes affordability and could lead to displacement for vulnerable communities.
2. **Lack of Alternatives:** Although funding critical projects is important, we must explore alternative revenue sources. Relying solely on renters and owners to finance these initiatives is unfair and unsustainable.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** It is crucial to ensure transparency in managing the tax revenue. Clear guidelines on fund allocation are essential to maintaining public trust.
4. **Balancing Priorities:** We need to strike a balance between infrastructure improvements, resiliency efforts, and housing affordability. Let's seek solutions that do not disproportionately impact individuals.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you reconsider House Bill 8183. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Joseph Solomon