



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

September 20, 2017

To: Governor Scott Walker

From: Americans for Tax Reform

Re: A Budget Protecting Property Rights & Taxpayers

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and our supporters across Wisconsin, I applaud you for all you have done to protect and provide relief to Wisconsin taxpayers. Thanks to your strong leadership, the new budget sent to your desk reduces taxes, eliminating two entire taxes, and repeals prevailing wage requirements that artificially inflate the cost of taxpayer-funded state projects.

There are, however, two problematic provisions in the budget that I encourage you to veto:

One is the provision that would prohibit local governments from banning short-term housing rentals in excess of seven days. I encourage Wisconsin and other states to preempt harmful local laws and regulations. **However, this provision leaves the door open for municipalities to regulate and prohibit short-term rentals of less than seven days.** In order to protect property rights of Wisconsin taxpayers, I urge lawmakers to prohibit localities from banning short-term rentals for any duration, whether it be one day, 20 days, or more.

Furthermore, there is another problematic provision in the budget that creates a new third party tax liability for short-term rental platforms. By mandating that platforms, rather than property owners assume the responsibility for collecting and remitting lodging taxes, Wisconsin would be creating an additional tax burden on short-term rental platforms that does not presently exist for any other lodging intermediaries.

For these reasons, I urge you to use your veto authority to strike these harmful provisions. When it comes to passing pro-growth, pro-taxpayer reforms, no other state can hold a candle to what you have accomplished in Wisconsin over the last six years. I thank you for your leadership in defense of taxpayers. The reforms you have passed, which required a great deal of courage, have saved taxpayers billions and have inspired other states. If you have any questions or if ATR can be of assistance, don't hesitate to contact me or Patrick Gleason, ATR's Director of State Affairs, at (202) 785-0266 or pgleason@atr.org.

Sincerely,

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