

Three years ago, I had to close my frack sand trucking business due to the fall in oil prices. I had to let everyone go and sell my assets at pennies on the dollar, losing everything. I'm not sure if many of you have ever gone through this, but it was devastating. And it devastated me.

To try and make ends meet, I started running an Airbnb. This brought back my enthusiasm and sense of self-worth. Month after month, I've managed to grow this into a business in which I add value to guests, employees, other businesses and investors. My name is Svet and I make a living through Airbnb.

Airbnb has allowed for my rebirth at a time when friends are being laid off, oil is selling at \$15 a barrel, and the downtown core has a 25% vacancy. My business has again given me the feeling that I'm contributing and adding value to people's lives. I've come here to share my story and suggest solutions.

1. Parties: Parties are rare. People that come from Europe, China or New York are not often hosting parties. They simply don't know anyone. Ask yourselves this question, when are you more likely to host a gathering, when you are travelling to a different country or when you are at home around all your friends and family? Even though unlikely, parties do happen sometimes, just like they happen in non-airbnb houses. I think that I can speak for every single host in this building when I say that we don't want parties in our properties. Here are some remedies to that issue: Give our numbers our neighbors, make us register to enable enforcement. Don't shut us down. In our units, we have decibel monitoring devices that alert us of any excessive noise after 10:00. That's more than long term rentals and hotels have. I want to work together to limit nuisances and parties. Our incentives are aligned.
2. Accommodation taxes: We would like to pay them – if we receive the same benefit as the hotel association. Let us pay the taxes and then receive the money back to our marketing budget – like hotels.
3. Jobs of hotel employees: We all want more jobs in Calgary. I would argue that the jobs that I provide are better than many hotel jobs. To call my employees cleaners is an understatement. They are my managers on the ground. They do problem solving, trouble shooting and strategy. For that added value, my business can afford to pay them more than the minimum wage offered to many housekeeping staff. My managers on the ground make upwards of \$30 per hour. They deserve to continue doing their jobs with honour and dignity.

Today, I've come to ask of you these things: Don't impose anti-competitive night restrictions. Don't impose anti-competitive principle residency rules. Don't allow motivated parties attribute to Airbnb, problems that exist in all units. Don't kill our business.

Make a common-sense resolution that every Airbnb is able to comply with.

