Approaching local leaders in your city or town can be intimidating. But remember: They are members of the community just like you and are there to help make it better - and they work for you! You have a right and a duty to tell them what you would like to see when it comes to STR regulations and matters. You can also serve as a resource to local leaders and help educate the community on what STRs are really all about.

So, no need to be a policy pro to introduce yourself to your local officials and leaders! The template below makes this quick and easy. Simply copy and paste the Mad-Libs style template below and fill in the blanks to easily customize a personal message to your local council members/city or town employees - or craft your own from scratch! The key is to be positive and respectful to exemplify the best of your community.

Email your letter to your local leaders or leave them a voicemail with your message. Most city departments and council members’ contact info is available on your government website.

Dear Council Members,

My name is **[name]** and I have been a **[resident/property owner]** in **[city/town]** for **[number]** years. Since I started hosting in **[year]**, my short-term rental has welcomed **[list what types of guests your str has hosted.]** My rental has enabled me to **[list how strs have helped you or your family. For example: supplement my retirement, keep a home in the family, save for my kids’ college.]** I pay all of my STR and property taxes, and I send my guests to support local businesses like **[list three local businesses you support.]** I am a respectful neighbor, responsible host, and valuable part of the **[city/town/county name]** economy.

I am committed to continuing an open dialogue with the **[city/town/county name]** and community members about local STRs. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if I can provide any information, insight or resources on behalf of the STR community.

Thank you,

**[your name]**

**[contact information]**