

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

April 28, 2015

Mr. Benjamin Mizer
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division, Consumer Protection Branch
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Hotel Booking Scams

Dear Mr. Mizer:

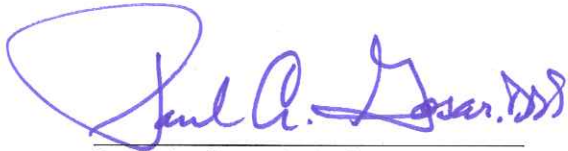
We write to bring attention to a matter that is causing substantial business losses and consumer confusion in the hotel booking industry. There is a growing trend for misleading or fake websites purporting to book hotel rooms. Some are even going so far as to use the same trademarked logos and answer a phone line listed on the fake website and claiming to be a legitimate and recognized hotel chain or resort, but having no affiliation with the hotel. The consumers will then book a reservation and make payment with the rogue website, and then show up to the actual hotel under the assumption they have a room reserved and paid. Following the confusion of the customer and loss of revenue for the business, the consumers often take their distress out on the legitimate business who had nothing to do with the scam.

The American Hotel and Lodging Association reports there are approximately 2.5 million false and misleading hotel bookings every year in the United States. This amounts to about \$220 million in fraud related hotel bookings.

We ask that you, in conjunction with the Federal Trade Commission, review this matter and assist the Hotel Association in its efforts to both educate consumers and to stop this type of consumer fraud.

Thank you for reviewing this matter. We ask that you follow all applicable rules and ethical guidelines when addressing this matter. If you have questions or if we may be of assistance in any way, please contact our office.

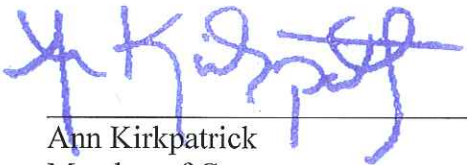
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress