

BARNEY FRANK
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

BANKING, FINANCE, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

JUDICIARY

CHARIMAN,

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

AGING

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF STAFF
1989 JAN 5 9 AM 15
CAMBRIDGE MA
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

January 5, 1989

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1030 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5931

DISTRICT OFFICES:

437 CHERRY STREET
WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02165
(617) 332-3920

10 PURCHASE STREET
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02722
(617) 674-3551

140 PARK STREET
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703
(617) 226-4723

Mr. Joseph Connarton
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

I received a copy of the resolution which was passed unanimously by the City Council in opposition to the Reagan administration's new rules and regulations for public housing. Some of those rules and regulations are appropriate, but there are many which will be unfair and I agree with the Council's opposition to these.

Unfortunately, by the time the administration proposed these rules, the House had already acted on the 1988 version of the housing bill. It was therefore too late for us to include language which would have prevented some of the oppressive parts of these rules from going into effect. Despite that, the House committee leadership, at the request of several of us, did seek to include language in the House/Senate conference version of the bill which would have given tenants some relief from some of these unfair rules. We made some progress, but unfortunately, the Republicans in the Senate, working with the administration, refused to accept them. Since it was we who are on the pro-tenant side who were interested in most of the provisions of the legislation, several of which were needed to improve on the work we did in the 1987 bill, we were forced to concede. As I said, our position on this was somewhat weakened because we did not have any language on this subject in our version of the bill, since the new rules came after the House had already passed the bill.

I will continue in the New Year to work to try to change some of these rules. You may be aware that we were opposed in our effort to lessen the negative impact of these rules by some of the organizations with whom we are often allied — specifically the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials. I regretted that and I know that some people in Massachusetts have been working to try to change that.

It may be that we will have better luck with the new Secretary of HUD, with whom I do not agree on many issues, but who may be more willing to listen to our pleas for fairness. In any case please accept my thanks for your City Council's willingness to join in this fight and my assurances that I will continue my part of it.


BARNEY FRANK

BF/pah

12.

S-28A

Comm. from Congressman Barney Frank, in acknowledgment & appreciation of resolutions adopted by the Council in opposition to new rules & regulations concerning public housing.

In City Council,

January 9, 1989

1-9-89

Placed on F.ile.