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CAMBRIDGE MA 290 Harvard St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Councilor Alice K. Wolf
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councilor Wolf,

I have been a tenant in Cambridge since 1978. I live in a rent-controlled apartment, I make \$13,000 a year, and I feel that if it were not for the existence of rent control I would have been forced to leave Cambridge several years ago because of the extreme shortage of affordable housing.

I am writing to you concerning the recent proposal made by a group of landlords to change the rent control law such that tenants who have lived in apartments for three or more years would be able to buy their apartments.

It seems obvious to me that this proposal is an attempt --- and a particularly cynical one at that --- to destroy rent control while pretending to improve it. Such changes as the proposal contains would in effect hold out a tempting bait to tenants, a bait which, if taken, would forever remove large numbers of apartments from the protection which rent control now offers. Those who would most benefit from the proposal --- large landlords and dealers in real estate --- are not in need of help, especially help that would further decrease the already insufficient number of rental units in Cambridge.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William Gilson

Comm. from William Gibson, in opposition to a recent proposal by a group of landlords to change the Rent Control law making it possible for tenants of three years or more standing to purchase their apartments.

In City Council,

June 8, 1987

Referred to the
Petition