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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

November 19, 1994

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council:

I am a single working mother who has lived in Cambridge since September, 1985. I work full time as a library assistant in the technical services area of MIT Libraries. I am the sole supporter of my daughter, Elizabeth, who will be five in December. Elizabeth attends school at Graham and Parks, and she loves her new school and new friends.

I write in support of myself, and in support of other working mothers living on tight budgets. I've held my job at MIT since 1985, and am glad to have it in these hard times, but my adjusted gross income on my last tax return (1993) was \$24,802. Out of that, I paid \$7,550 in daycare costs so that I could continue to work to support our family. In previous years, my income was somewhat lower, and daycare costs higher (in 1991, income was \$22,733; daycare \$9,199).

Without a reasonable rent and a rent controlled apartment, I don't know how I could have financially survived Elizabeth's daycare years as a working mother on her own. Still, we face after school care expenses and care expenses for school vacations and summers. Additionally,

I am still paying off a dental expense of \$2,318 from January 1994; Comparable work is needed still, but I must put this off until our financial future here in Cambridge is a bit more settled. I still pay student loans.

I hope and pray that the City Council will come together with a plan to help Cambridge rent control tenants of moderate means. Please, in designing a means test, keep in mind the costs involved in raising children. Please, agree on a program to protect as many Cambridge working people as you can, for as long as you can. I have fears that vacancy decontrol would mean harassment for many tenants, and a sad erosion of the Cambridge we love. I want to continue to live, to work, to volunteer in this city, and for my daughter to grow up in a community which people of all income brackets can continue to call home.

Very Sincerely,
Marylin Eastwood

Comm. # 8

S-536

Comm. from Marylin Eastwood, 52 Garden Street, # 48
urging the City Council to support a plan that will
help tenants of moderate means.

In City Council,

November 20, 1994

Placed on file