



HOUSING JUSTICE FOR ALL

April 7, 2019

**Dear Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and
Assembly Speaker Heastie:**

We'll get right to the point: the landlord lobby and real-estate industry have wielded too much power in state government for way too long.

You should take action to change that. For the first time in a decade, Democrats have control over what gets done in Albany.

Half our state rents their homes. These families aren't landlords.

But instead of protecting tenants, the current rent regulation laws do more to help a small number of New Yorkers and corporations profit from owning rental properties. This year, special treatment for the real-estate elite must end.

50% of renter-families in our State can't afford their rent. Our state has a huge affordable housing crisis, a growing homeless population, and the current rent regulation laws leave tenants throughout New York State vulnerable to landlord harassment, unfair rent increases, and unjust evictions.

The best way to make life better for New York's tenants is to fix the broken rent regulation system which is based on laws up for renewal in June in Albany. These laws must be strengthened and expanded to protect all tenants. You should get to work now on enacting a better, stronger, and fairer system of rent laws that will protect all tenants across New York State.

You have a clear choice to make: you can either fight for the eight million New Yorkers who rent their homes, or continue to give special treatment to landlords.

You can either stand with tenants or stand with corporate landlords. You can't do both.

The rental housing crisis is a statewide crisis. 100 people are evicted each day. As tenants, many of us experience landlord harassment, unfair rent increases, and eviction. This battle over tenants' rights will shape the future of New York State for years to come.

The stakes could not be any higher, and the urgency could not be any greater.

Without tenants' rights that protect everyone, New York State will not survive as a state where regular people and working families can live and thrive.

Without tenants' rights that reduce the power of landlords and real-estate corporations, fewer New Yorkers will be able to afford to live here.

It's that simple. That's why it's so important for you to enact universal rent control – a package of 9 bills that would protect all of New York's tenants through an expansion of rent regulation, the prevention of unjust evictions, and aggressive preservation of the most affordable rental housing that currently exists.

It's your job to make life better for the vast majority of New Yorkers you represent in state government.

Landlords are the few. Tenants are the many.

There's no time to wait. It took a decade for Democrats to regain control of Albany. Don't squander this opportunity to pass universal rent control, and show that state government can deliver a real victory for all of New York's tenants.

Sincerely,

Akron Mobile Home Park Tenants Association
ALIGN-NY
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development
Bronx Progressives
Caaav: Organizing Asian Communities
CASA New Settlement (CASA)
Capitol Region DSA
Central Park Gardens Tenants' Association
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Churches United for Fair Housing
Citizen Action of NY
Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center
Community Service Society
Community Voices Heard
Cooper Square Committee
Crown Heights Tenant Union
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
Ebbets Field Tenant Organization
Flatbush Tenant Coalition
Housing Conservation Coordinators
Housing for All - Albany, NY
Housing Rights Initiative
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Kingston Tenants Union
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Latino Ministry - The Riverside Church
Lower Seaman Tenant Association
Make the Road NY
Met Council on Housing
Minkwon Center for Community Action
MH Action
Morningside Heights Community Coalition
Mount Vernon United Tenants
Neighbors Together
New York City DSA
New York Communities for Change
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson

Northern Manhattan Improvement Coalition (NMIC)
Northern Manhattan is Not For Sale
Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition
PLOT Binghamton
Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association (PLGNA)
Real Rent Reform Campaign
Ridgewood Tenants' Union
Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Alliance (RENA)
Rochester Citywide Tenants' Union
Schenectady Tenants Association Meeting Program (STAMP)
Southwest Brooklyn Tenant Union
Stuyvesant Town - Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association
Syracuse DSA
Tenants & Neighbors
Tenants of LeFrak City
Tenants PAC
The Legal Aid Society
United Neighbors Organization (UNO)
United Tenants of Albany
Upper West Side MoveOn/Indivisible Action Group
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB)
VOCAL-NY
West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club
West Side Neighborhood Alliance
Woodside on the Move
Zara Tenants Coalition