

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 02/15/2020 02:07 PM

Council File No: 18-1245

Comments for Public Posting: Please be aware that these new laws restricting homeowners from renting out bedrooms in their own homes have real-world and immediate consequences, not the least of which is forcing many cash-strapped homeowners out of their homes when we often have a reduced income due to a confluence of factors including aging out of the job market, retirement, disability and caring for a disabled family member. In my case, it's all of the above. Living without a reliable social safety net as it is hacked away underneath us on a yearly basis is harrowing. Add to this the knowledge that corporate interests are doing just fine, having been the recipients of interest-free bailouts, then used taxpayers for stock buybacks while simultaneously bleeding the working class dry. The US simply must factor in relief for the working class, and those that are the tail end of their worklives but have seen pensions and retirement options vanish in a vast, global redistribution of middle class wealth into the 1%'s coffers. Is America even salvageable? It should come as no surprise that few Europeans care to emigrate here. They are unlikely to sacrifice hard won social benefits in exchange for low wages and high cost of living. The government would do well to consider not just the number of people trying to come to the US to live as they escape from desperate circumstances at home but also the proportion of US citizens forced into the same situation because the US no longer prioritizes the worker nor provides for our quality of life. When 70% of our monthly income is required just to fund housing-related costs, how are we to save, let alone get ahead? While I doubt the government will consider the needs of the vanishing middle class, I would pray they do not legislate away our access to new revenue streams or further hamper our abilities to support ourselves by saddling us with onerous legislation designed to separate us from our lifetime investment in our homes. Very truly yours, Victoria