

Tsarkov, Alex

From: David K [davidk1233@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:46 PM

To: Tsarkov, Alex

Subject: From David Kelman 1: Written Testimony is Support of HB6620, HB1205, HB1208 Condo Bills; For Public Hearing 3/25/11

Written Testimony is Support of HB6620, HB1205 and HB1208; For Public Hearing 3/25/11

Letter to the Editor – West Hartford News 3-14-11

westhartfordnews@ctcentral.com

To the Editor:

Thank you to the West Hartford News for regularly publishing George Gombossy's column, CT Watchdog, which is always filled with valuable consumer information and insight. In addition, much thanks to George Gombossy for dedicating his column on March 10, 2011 to the plight of condo owners statewide and for mentioning the Connecticut Condo Owners Coalition, and hosting an Internet TV/Radio talk show featuring our organization on March 15. With over 2,200 condominium units in West Hartford alone and over 250,000 condo units statewide, please spread the word that lawmakers must make a greater effort to protect this sizable population.

Consumers can turn to various state agencies for assistance without having to go to court, but condo owners cannot. DMV has a consumer complaint center. The Attorney General's Office has a Consumer Assistance Unit. The Departments of Consumer Protection, Insurance, Banking, Public Utilities and others can assist consumers with disputes. Condo owners are told over and over no state agency has jurisdiction and can assist with mediating disputes. Many condo owners cannot afford to hire attorneys to protect their investment, and many are elderly who are not getting the assistance they deserve as owners, nor getting the support of the Secretary of State who has the authority to interrogate condo associations (non-stock corporations) if unlawful behavior is suspected.

Individual condo owners are now banding together as part of the Connecticut Condo Owners Coalition to alert legislators of the need for reform. With over one dozen state newspapers covering the story, and various radio outlets granting interviews, the media is taking notice and public awareness is growing.

Legislators, please pay attention to condo owners who call in and send emails, and don't be swayed by lobbyists and special interest groups who are out to make a profit at the expense of condo owners. CCOC seeks a level playing field and more transparency and accountability in common interest community governance.

I urge all condo owners in West Hartford and throughout the state to join the Connecticut Condo Owners Coalition, a grassroots group with no membership fee. We have no funds to promote this organization so please spread the word. To join the Connecticut Condo Owners Coalition, email ctcondowners@yahoo.com.

Respectfully,

David Kelman
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West Hartford

3/24/2011