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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**Council Members Van Bramer and Dromm Travel to Albany
to Demand Stronger Rent Protection Laws**
*Lawmakers Call on Governor Cuomo to Act Swiftly
on Renewing Existing Rent Regulations*

Queens, NY, May 25, 2011 – On Tuesday New York City Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Daniel Dromm from Queens travelled to Albany along with other lawmakers to demand that the State legislature renew and strengthen existing rent protection laws due to expire next month. If not renewed, nearly 1 million middle-class families will be subject to unfair rent increases which can jeopardize their homes.

“If Albany does not act quickly, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers could be left homeless,” said NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm (D-Queens). “We need to act responsibly and stand by hard working families who are barely getting by as it is and protect them from greedy landlords looking to raise rents by any means necessary. However, renewing these laws simply is not enough. We must ensure even greater protections for our communities and preserve housing that is truly affordable to them.”

“Now is the time to renew and strengthen the rent protection laws that will expire next month,” said Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer (D-26th District). “During these difficult economic times, stronger rent regulations will protect working families and seniors struggling to make ends meet. With nearly 1 million New Yorkers depending on these regulations, including 30,000 in my district, swift action must be taken to ensure these protections are strengthened and remain in place.”

With the expiration date for the existing rent regulations quickly approaching, protesters are rallying across the state to illustrate the devastating consequences we may face if the current laws are not renewed. Yesterday makeshift tent cities were set up by demonstrators all across the City with more demonstrations planned later in the week.

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