

March 25, 2022

Michael English
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TESTIMONY ON SB0384- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Landlord and Tenant, Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination

TO: Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Michael English

My name is Michael English, and I live in downtown Silver Spring, part of Maryland District 20. I am writing this testimony in support of SB0384, Landlord and Tenant, Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination. The bill essentially holds that the court should hit the pause button when a good faith rental assistance application is pending, and with \$400 million in rental assistance available, this makes sense. No one should want to evict someone who is only weeks away from getting the help they need to stay in their home.

As happy as I was to see this bill make it through the Senate, it has already been heavily amended to address the concerns of landlords. This isn't inherently bad, but I believe that this fact, along with the unanimously favorable vote it received in Senate JPR, chaired by my own Senator Smith of D20. Accordingly, I strongly urge the committee to vote favorable on SB384 as amended by the Senate without any further weakening amendments. Accordingly, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0662.