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Subject: [aff-hous] Rent laws extended til Monday;  
Cuomo threatened "emergency"

The Wonkster

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/blogs/wonkster/2011/06/17/cuomo-threatened-rent-emergency/>

Cuomo Threatened Rent Emergency

June 17th, 2011

In an apparent effort to jumpstart negotiations on rent regulation, Gov. Andrew Cuomo reportedly threatened to essentially return the power to control rents to the New York City Council, David King reports from Albany.

Sources tell King that the decision by many Senate Democrats to vote against a temporary extension yesterday apparently spurred the governor to act. He responded by contacting the two key real estate industry groups — the Rent Stabilization Association and the Real Estate Board of New York — and threatened that, without an extension, he would declare an emergency that would put rent regulation into the hands of the pro rent control council.

That, sources say, would have paved the way for repeal of the Urstadt law, the 1971 measure that bars New York City from adopting its own, more stringent rent regulations. Tenant groups have long sought repeal of the law with no success.

The move has reportedly prompted the two powerful associations to realize they might have to make concessions. And pro-tenant Democrats, now seemingly confident substantive negotiations will actually take place, seem likely to support a temporary extension.

By Gail Robinson on June 17, 2011, 5:22 pm

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