

Zoning Case No. 08-06A, Subtitle D
(Support for Accessory Apartments rule changes)
Testimony presented on November 6, 2013 by Elinor Hart

Good evening Chairman Hood and other members of the Zoning Commission. I welcome this opportunity to testify in favor of the changes in zoning regulations which will make accessory apartments easier to establish. I am especially pleased because I advocate for affordable housing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of DC. And the League has been in favor of land use policies which will promote the development of accessory housing since 1989. I am sure that the option to create accessory apartments as a matter of right will significantly increase the number of these apartments in DC. Accessory apartments will make more housing available in and near some of the city's most desirable neighborhoods. And they will provide additional housing in areas easily accessible to jobs, restaurants, and cultural attractions. They will be welcomed by the many young people who are flocking to DC. The additional income from accessory apartments will be welcomed by older and less affluent residents eager to remain in the homes they have lived in for years. The Office of Planning and the Zoning Commission are to be commended for modifying DC's land use policies to better meet the needs of our residents and improve the quality of life in the city. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your good work.