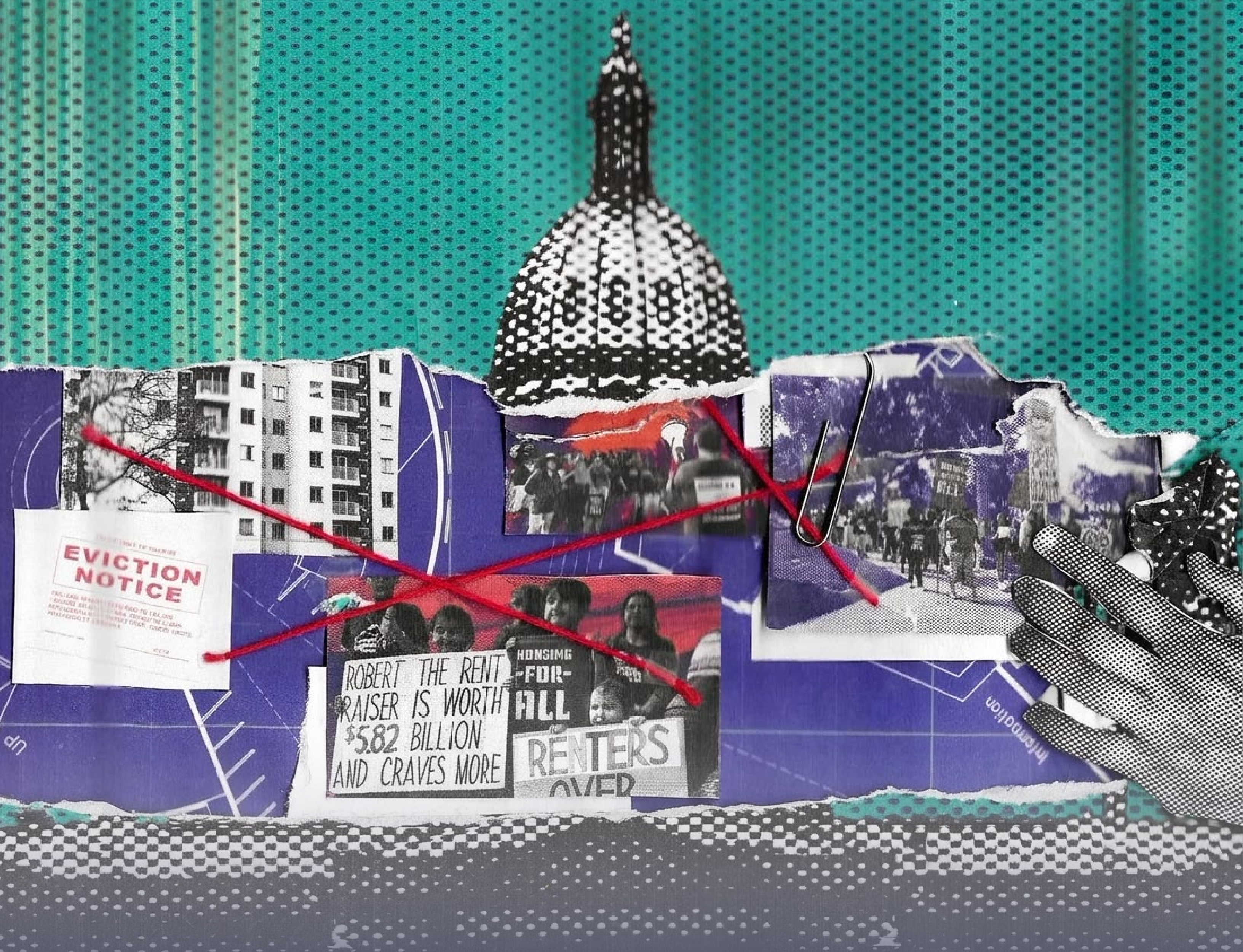

THE HIDDEN HEIST

COLORADO

Greystar and the Corporate Stranglehold on Colorado Housing

PowerSwitch Action

United for a New Economy

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INTRODUCTION

State Bans and the Rise of Corporate Power

Communities across the U.S. today face growing threats to our physical, environmental, and economic survival, along with increasingly brazen corporate and authoritarian power grabs. While the second Trump regime has pulled back the curtain on egregious levels of corporate and billionaire control over our democracy, decades of "business as usual" corporate interference (in both red and blue states) got us here. Long before Trump entered office for a second term, corporations have worked through industry groups to covertly buy, bully, and bamboozle lawmakers and the American public in order to rig the rules of our economy and democracy to line their pockets — while they hide in plain sight. And as scholars have noted, the deeply unequal economic conditions that corporations have shaped and continue to benefit from in our country are essential conditions enabling authoritarianism to take root.[1]

Long before Trump entered office for a second term, corporations have worked through industry groups to covertly buy, bully, and bamboozle lawmakers and the American public in order to rig the rules of our economy and democracy to line their pockets — while they hide in plain sight.

An important but largely invisible piece of the corporate quest to control American homes, workplaces, and democracy has been the rise of state laws — pushed by corporations and their lobbyists — that prevent communities from passing local policies protecting us at work, at home, and in our neighborhoods in the face of corporate greed. Through the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and industry lobbying groups, corporations have pushed these sweeping state bans — also referred to as "preemption" in some spaces — in all 50 states.[2] These corporate-driven state bans have grown at a rapid scale in recent years,[3] undermining democracy and blocking local leaders and residents from working together to pass policies addressing basic needs for working families. Under state bans, essential protections like reasonable caps on rent, paid sick leave protections, incentives for affordable housing, and higher minimum wages have been stolen from millions of people.[4]

State bans have their roots in a white supremacist history, in which Southern white elites used state laws to suppress the political power and freedoms of Black people and thwart local efforts to advance more participatory, multiracial democracy.[5] And this legacy continues in the racialized impacts of state bans today. Corporate-driven state bans harm the health and wellbeing of working people — especially working class communities of color — in myriad ways.[6] The case studies in this report focus on state bans blocking local housing and workplace protections, which have disproportionately impacted communities of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, and disabled people.[7] And increasingly, ideologically driven politicians, their corporate allies, and billionaire donors are pushing state bans that overtly target the safety and fundamental freedoms of all of these groups in ever-more oppressive ways.[8]

State bans have their roots in a white supremacist history, in which Southern white elites used state laws to suppress the political power and freedoms of Black people and thwart local efforts to advance more participatory, multiracial democracy. And this legacy continues in the racialized impacts of state bans today.

Corporations have also used state bans — and the arena of state government — to test tactics they are now unleashing at the federal level to assert dangerous levels of control over our democracy while demolishing checks on their power and profit.[9] Understanding this stealth strategy of corporate power — including the corporate actors behind these bans, the tactics they use, and how these bans have blocked our freedoms and derailed our democracy — is critical to fighting back against the corporate-backed authoritarianism harming us all.

COLORADO AND THE CORPORATE-DRIVEN HOUSING CRISIS

There are few places where corporate control is felt more acutely than in housing. Corporate tactics to solidify control over housing and housing policy across the country have driven escalating rents, deteriorating housing conditions, and waves of evictions,[11] especially over the past six years.[12] Thirty-three states ban local rent stabilization.[13] Meanwhile, corporate talking points against rent ceilings and tenant protections are often treated as fact and parroted by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to justify state bans and prevent communities from passing sorely needed local housing solutions.[14]

And in city after city, debates about housing scarcity and how to increase supply obscure the reality that corporate landlords, real estate interests, and private equity firms have very often manufactured scarcity and driven escalating affordability crises that they profit from at every step of the way. They buy up available stock to create luxury housing in gentrifying neighborhoods or short-term housing for tourists.[15] They use algorithmic tools that often raise rates far beyond inflation.[16] And they evict tenants in favor of higher paying residents.[17] State bans on rent stabilization and other local solutions to ensure affordability and protect tenants have been a key strategy to advance corporate control over our housing. And these bans perpetuate a cycle of crisis to the benefit of corporate returns, while communities suffer enormously.[18]

In Colorado, corporate landlords have been especially successful at exploiting this dynamic. Over decades, Colorado's corporate housing players have established a powerful presence at the state legislature — repeatedly buying, bullying, and bamboozling lawmakers and the governor into defending landlords' ability to profit and price-fix over tenants' right to safe, healthy, and affordable housing. And it's no coincidence that renters and homeowners alike are struggling to afford housing in this landscape,[19] with Coloradans in large metropolitan areas experiencing the largest rent hikes in the nation between 2020-2023.[20]

WHAT ARE STATE BANS?

State laws — often pushed by corporations, their industry groups, and lobbyists — that prevent local communities from passing policies that create essential protections for working people in one or more issue area. Referred to as "preemption" in some spaces, state bans have become a tried and true strategy of the corporate deregulation agenda by dismantling existing local policies that check their power and profit — like local minimum wage ordinances — and blocking future ones from taking effect. Bans may 1) block communities from setting local standards that go beyond state law on a specific issue; 2) put strict limitations on how communities can set standards on a specific issue, or which aspects of the issue they can regulate at the local level; or 3) block communities from setting local standards on a specific issue, even when no state standard exists – thus shutting communities out of protections entirely (beyond the bare minimum of what is required by federal law).

State bans now exist in all 50 states, including some form of affordable housing or workers' rights related ban.[10] We define these bans as:

- **Affordable housing bans:** any state bans that constrain communities' ability to pass local policies that support access to affordable housing — like rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and incentives for affordable housing.
- **Workers' rights bans:** any state bans that constrain local communities' ability to pass policies that set baseline standards for working people — like minimum wage ordinances, paid leave requirements, and fair scheduling policies.

COLORADO'S LEGACY OF CORPORATE CONTROL OVER RENTS

Colorado is notoriously landlord friendly, with some of the most limited rent stabilization and tenant protection laws in the country.[21] In response to residents in Boulder organizing for citywide rent stabilization in 1981, the state legislature banned rent stabilization that same year, prohibiting cities and counties from enacting any policy that would limit residential rents.[22] The ban gives landlords unlimited power to raise rents as high as they want, as long as it's only once a year or between leases.[23] This ban has forced Colorado's 783,361 renter households into units with unlimited rent hikes.[24]

Despite the efforts of community activists working with local city councils,[25] attempts to overturn or mitigate the state's long-standing ban on rent stabilization in 2019 and 2023[26] did not pass in the corporate-backed state legislature, even as they were carefully constructed to provide a fair return to landlords.[27] In all cases, those efforts were undercut by vicious opposition from landlords, developers, and real estate industry lobbyists.[28] In this landscape, community-driven efforts to advance rent stabilization and other tenant protection laws have been thwarted over and over again.

COLORADO'S CORPORATE LANDLORDS

Led by the Colorado Apartment Association, the state's corporate power structure has fought efforts by tenant advocates and their allies in the legislature to make meaningful change to protect Colorado's renters from the myriad negative consequences of the state's runaway housing costs. Year after year, a string of corporations and the statewide arms of national industry lobbying groups like the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Realtors, Colorado Concern (a statewide organization of CEOs — including leaders of Draft Kings, Chevron and Xcel Energy) and the Colorado Competitiveness Council (representing corporations like Airbnb, Amazon, General Motors, Google, United Airlines, Wells Fargo and Uber Technologies[29]) line up to oppose modifications to the existing order of corporate-serving housing laws.[30]

The Colorado Apartment Association is one of the most prominent public faces opposing local stabilization of rents and other tenant protections. In 2023, Colorado Apartment Association's leadership penned op-eds against rent stabilization.[31] One of its affiliates provided the data that was used by The Denver Gazette's editorial board to oppose the bill that would overturn the ban on rent stabilization.[32] And it coordinated opposition testimony before the state legislature.[33] Colorado Apartment Association members manage a combined $98 billion in real estate assets.[34] Its members own and manage over 430,000 apartments in Colorado,35 equating to over 80% of all rental housing stock in Colorado.[36] While claiming to advocate for "small business owners and individuals supporting their families with just a handful of properties,"[37] the Association's Board of Directors features representatives from large corporate apartment owners, with some of the largest multifamily housing and utility corporations in the country holding seats on its board — including Comcast, Cushman and Wakefield, Weidner Apartment Homes, and Greystar.[38]

Greystar — the largest apartment owner, manager, and developer in the United States[39] — holds two seats on the Colorado Apartment Association board.[40] Greystar is a massive global landlord, managing and operating $315 billion in real estate across five continents.[41] Its CEO Bob Faith is worth $5 billion.[42] The company is a pernicious presence in the Colorado rental housing market, controlling 6% of the state's rental housing[43] while profiting off the state's ban on rent stabilization and other tenant protection policies that the state apartment association has advocated repeatedly to maintain. In April 2025 the Federal Trade Commission and the State of Colorado filed a lawsuit against Greystar alleging the company has been charging tenants hidden fees for years and making billions of dollars by advertising deceptively low lease rates and then tacking on mandatory costs later — resulting in Greystar paying the FTC and State of Colorado a $24 million combined settlement in late 2025.[44] Greystar was also the subject of a consolidated class action lawsuit brought by tenants alleging that the company imposed hidden and illegal junk fees,[45] along with individual suits alleging illegal junk fees brought by renters in states like California.[46] Greystar's influence is not limited to Colorado. A Greystar managing director previously served as President and is now in the Executive Committee of the Texas Apartment Association along with another Greystar representative, for example.[47] And the Texas Apartment Association has played its own role in pushing state bans on local housing policies as part of an industry coalition[48] that supported Texas's sweeping Death Star ban, as discussed in the Texas case study.[49]

PRICE FIXING AND COLLUSION

In August 2024, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and eight states including Colorado and Tennessee, sued RealPage, the company which makes software used by 80% of US landlords to price apartments. The suit charged RealPage with an unlawful scheme to allow collusion among landlords in apartment pricing.[50] The Biden administration's White House Council of Economic Advisors found that Denver-area landlords using RealPage's pricing algorithms take more than $1,600 in additional annual rent from every renter living in their units — the second-highest algorithmic-related price hike facing renters among 20 major metropolitan areas in the country.[51] In January 2025, the DOJ expanded the lawsuit to include six landlords — including Apartment Association power players Greystar and Cushman & Wakefield — for participating in pricing schemes that harmed renters.[52] The complaint alleges that the landlords actively participated in a price-setting scheme by using each other's competitively sensitive information through RealPage's pricing algorithms, along with sharing information with each other on rents, occupancy, and other competitively sensitive topics.[53]

The DOJ has since settled with Greystar and RealPage. Among other terms, the settlement with Greystar required the company to "refrain from using any algorithm that generates pricing recommendations using its competitors' competitively sensitive data" and to "refrain from attending or participating in RealPage-hosted meetings of competing landlords."[54] Meanwhile, the proposed terms for RealPage prohibits the company from hosting meetings and facilitating discussions with client companies (like Greystar) to discuss market trends and pricing strategies based on non-public data, and requires RealPage to accept a court-appointed Monitor to oversee the company's operations for three years.[55]

Along with corporate landlord groups including the Colorado Association of Realtors, RealPage lobbied against an anti-price coordination bill that passed the Colorado legislature in May 2025.[56] The Governor, however, vetoed the bill, earning the praises of RealPage which applauded his "courageous leadership."[57]

The High Health Costs of Colorado's Runaway Rents

In recent years, corporate landlords have pushed Coloradans across the state into a growing housing affordability crisis. The situation has only been exacerbated by algorithmic and information-sharing practices[58] employed by Greystar and other major landlords in the state. With no limits on rental increases year to year due to the corporate-backed rent stabilization ban, Colorado is the tenth least affordable state for housing in the country.[59] A staggering 86% of Coloradans express concerns about housing, categorizing it as either an "extremely serious or very serious problem."[60] And nearly half of Coloradans' 783,361 renter households are cost-burdened by steep rental costs–with more than 30% of their income being taken by landlords and utility companies.[61] Essential service workers, including teachers and nurses, often cannot afford to live close to where they work or are significantly cost burdened.[62] People working in retail, service and temporary jobs, or those on fixed income, struggle even more than middle-class employees with stable income. Someone working a job at Colorado's $14.81 minimum wage, for example, would need to work 82 hours each week — over 11 hours per day, seven days per week — to afford a modest one-bedroom rental home at fair market rent.[63]

With corporations like Greystar fighting measures to stabilize soaring rents, it is not surprising that evictions in the state have surged to record highs in recent years. There were nearly 16,000 eviction filings in Denver alone in 2025[64] and over 60,000 statewide,[65] according to state and local data. 2025 marked a third consecutive year of record-setting eviction filings in Denver, the capital city,[66] with current eviction levels 72% higher than pre-pandemic levels.[67] Not all evicted tenants are able to find or afford new rentals, and many are pushed into homelessness. Colorado's homeless population surged by 90% from 2020 to 2024, the fourth highest growth rate in the country. As of 2024, the state ranked ninth in the country for homelessness per capita, with over three individuals per 1,000 experiencing homelessness.[68] Black and Indigenous Coloradans are both overrepresented in the homeless population by three times compared to the general population.[69]The health impacts of rising rents, soaring evictions, displacement and homelessness are immense. Housing cost burden forces residents into impossible trade-offs, as they struggle to afford food, transportation, childcare, and doctor's visits while keeping a roof overhead. A large body of research links housing cost burden to overcrowding; lower housing and neighborhood quality; exposure to harmful pollutants, toxins, and allergens; increased anxiety, financial stress and emotional strain; and lower educational attainment for children.[70] When rising rents displace residents out of their longtime neighborhoods, they may face worsening health due to loss of critical support networks and places of care, increased commutes, and stress.[71]

And when landlords turn to eviction if tenants struggle to pay rent, a cascade of health consequences follows for entire families.[72] The associations between eviction and poor health outcomes have been well documented;[73] even the threat of eviction results in worsening physical health and increased rates of depression and suicide.[74] A recent study found that rising rents and evictions are linked to increased risk of mortality and premature death.[75] And if evicted residents have nowhere to go, as a growing number of Coloradans are experiencing, homelessness is devastating for both physical and mental health. Without the most basic of human needs, new health problems emerge and existing ones worsen.[76] A 2023 study of homeless individuals in Denver found that a vast majority experienced new or worsening physical or mental health problems, and over half experienced violence in the last year.[77]

THE COLORADO VILLAINS

The national industry groups behind state bans in Colorado:

NATIONAL APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

The National Apartment Association (NAA, parent organization to the Colorado Apartment Association) is the primary voice of the corporate landlord lobby, with some of the country's largest multifamily corporate owners driving the agenda of the national association and its state affiliates. Representatives from Greystar, for example, hold three seats on the national association's board[78] and sit on multiple other state Apartment Association boards.[79] Major corporate landlords like Blackstone and its subsidiaries,[80] Essex Property Trust, and Avalon Bay Communities have collectively sent millions to power the association's affiliate campaigns to defeat stronger rent stabilization and tenant protection policies in California.[81] And the Apartment Association's state chapters have proudly touted their role in preserving corporate-driven bans and beating back local tenant protections.[82] Through its buy, bully, bamboozle tactics, the National Apartment Association and its state affiliates have ensured corporate members can continue cashing in on the escalating housing crises they contribute to in states like California,[83] Tennessee,[84] and Colorado — as discussed in this memo.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

The National Association of Realtors (NAR, parent organization to the Colorado Association of Realtors) has combatted rent stabilization on residential and commercial properties in states across the country, while rallying its state and local affiliates to do the same.[85] Its leadership team includes representatives from major real estate brokerage firms like Century 21 and Realty ONE Group.[86] The National Association of Realtors lobbies against tenant protections,[87] opposes the regulation of short-term rentals,[88] and rails against the "expan[sion] of the authority of local governments" to provide oversight on property owners.[89] Its state chapters run well-funded political action committees that have used buy tactics to influence elections and lawmakers in states like California,[90] Tennessee,[91] and Colorado — as discussed in this memo.

THE CORPORATE PLAYBOOK: BUY, BULLY, BAMBOOZLE

THE TACTICS CORPORATIONS USE TO PUSH STATE BANS FALL INTO THREE PRIMARY BUCKETS. OFTEN, CORPORATIONS USE A COMBINATION OF ALL THREE:

BUY

Corporations pour funds into amassing political power over lawmakers and voters — like writing campaign checks and hiring pricey lobbyists — and leverage this influence to ban policies that protect community wellbeing.

BULLY

Corporations use legal, economic, and other threats — like lawsuits, raising prices, or leaving town — to pressure elected officials and community members into banning policies that hold them accountable.

BAMBOOZLE

Corporations push misleading information — like political ads and talking points about how tenant protections hurt working people — to sway lawmakers and community members against policies that check corporate power.

The Corporate Playbook Behind Colorado's Housing Crisis

With the state's ban on rent stabilization, the Colorado corporate property lobby continues to buy, bully and bamboozle their way out of any meaningful controls on their power and profiteering.

BUY: LOCKING DOWN THE LEGISLATURE WITH POLITICAL DONATIONS

The Colorado Apartment Association pays lobbyists hundreds of thousands to represent the interests of corporate landlords at the state legislature.[92] Corporations in Colorado are prohibited from making political donations, but give inconspicuously to their associations who donate directly to candidates and through PACs and independent expenditure committees. Since 2018, the Colorado Apartment Association[93] has spent close to $2.2 million on political contributions, including direct donations to the legislators voting on rent stabilization and other tenant protections.[94]

Like CAA, Colorado's real estate interests also spend heavily backing legislators and issue committees that support landlord and developer agendas. The Colorado Association of Realtors has made $1.7 million in political donations since 2018, including over $800,000 to its own "Prosperity through Property Rights" independent expenditure committee; notably, the National Association of Realtors gave the committee $770,000 during that same period.[95]

BULLY: "BATTLING THE STATE LEGISLATURE"

Community activists, backed by allies in city and state government, have organized to advance a series of pro-tenant bills in recent years. This powerful tenant movement has led Drew Hamrick, the Colorado Apartment Association's lead spokesperson, to complain in 2024, "There's too many of them, and you can't go to the same legislators over and over again and ask them to kill numerous of their party's bills."[96] Instead, he bragged, the industry associations "take as much of the teeth out as possible...Every one of these [bills] was full of our amendments."[97] Indeed, over the past few years, tenants' rights advocates have won a number of important reforms through the legislature, but they have often been forced to remove key provisions by aggressive landlord and real estate lobbying.[98] With decades of experience "battling the state legislature," the Colorado Apartment Association's leadership has boasted about the group's relentless lobbying saving Colorado property owners and managers "billions of dollars."[99]

The proposed anti-price coordination bill brought forward by housing advocates in 2025 is a perfect example. HB25-1004 would have prevented the use of algorithmic devices by landlords in the same market to set rents.[100] In the face of widespread media coverage and national public scrutiny[101] over the use of RealPage's software by corporate landlords like Greystar, the Colorado Apartment Association lobbied to dilute the impact of the bill through amendments[102] while diverting the public narrative. The Colorado Apartment Association's mouthpiece and chief lobbyist, Drew Hamrick, said the bill was unnecessary, because price fixing has been prohibited by law for the last 120 years.[103] Leaders of the California Apartment Association, which perpetually claims to represent the interests of small property owners, also said, “some of the bigger operators in the state are going to be much more sophisticated and inclined to use a service like this than the smaller operators” because “It’s a big-girl-and-boy-kind-of-tool” and not used by “the mom-and-pop landlords.”[104] Proponents note that price-setting tools hurt not only tenants but also small landlords, as they don’t have the same tools and therefore cannot compete fairly.[105]

When the final version that passed through the legislature wasn’t landlord-friendly enough, the CAA demanded a gubernatorial veto.[106] Governor Polis followed suit, vetoing the bill on grounds that mirror Hamrick and CAA’s talking points.[107] In the letter, Polis cites the unnecessary nature of creating another bill on top of the already standing antitrust law. Further, he states that the bill “may have unintended consequences of creating a hostile environment for providers of rental housing and could result in further diminished supply of rental housing based on inadequate data. The cost of rent is already too high.[108] The fact that Colorado’s highest decisionmaker sees algorithmic price-setting as a necessary tool to fight the affordability crisis reveals the extent to which corporate landlords have not only dominated housing supply but also the housing policy debate altogether. Rather than focusing on measures to cap Colorado’s runaway rents, the Governor instead chose to enable corporate landlords to continue operating in ways that extract maximum profit from Colorado renters.

BAMBOOZLE: HYPOCRISY AND MISDIRECTION

The landlord and real estate industries framed their opposition to rent stabilization as concern about impacts on housing supply and prices — with CAA leadership claiming that it “hurts the people it is trying to help.”[109] The Apartment Association and industry groups including the Denver Metro Chamber contended that rent stabilization would chill new housing construction,[110] and that anywhere it is in effect, “the result is always less available housing and higher prices.”[111] Going further, the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce issued dire warnings that holding rent increases to reasonable levels would result in landlords being unable to maintain their properties, “creating blight and worse living conditions for residents.”[112]

These scare tactic arguments stand in stark contrast to the ample evidence that rent stabilization policies keep rents more affordable and do not impact new construction rates[113] or constrain supply.[114] An analysis of 76 New Jersey cities with rent stabilization found little to no statistically significant effect of rent stabilization on new construction.[115] Studies have also found no boom in new construction in places where rent stabilization has been lifted,[116] and that new construction alone isn’t enough to improve housing affordability without significant tenant protections, including protections from unreasonable rent increases.[117]

Property owners’ threats of worsened conditions for tenants under rent stabilization obscure the fact that Colorado’s corporate landlords and real estate industries have fought numerous measures to improve living conditions and affordability for tenants.[118] In reality, corporate landlords are more likely than other landlords to neglect upkeep and disinvest in their properties to maximize profit, leading to higher rates of code violations and unsafe and unhealthy housing conditions.[119] In Colorado, corporate landlords like CBZ Management have notoriously failed to maintain their apartment buildings. For example, Denver and Aurora shut down multiple CBZ-owned apartment buildings due to massive code violations and unsafe living conditions – including rodent infestations and lack of basic heat and electricity.[120] In May 2025, housing advocates responded by successfully amending the state's landlord-tenant law to allow Colorado cities and counties to take control of derelict apartment complexes temporarily and use rental payments to fix problems at the property before turning it back over to the owner.[121] But property owners blasted the bill as government overreach and seizure of private property.[122] The usual suspects, including the Real Estate Alliance, Competitive Council, and the Association of Realtors, came out in force against the bill.[123] The Apartment Association decried that the law would "criminalize being a rental housing provider."[124]

HB 1090, a bill passed in April 2025 to rein in hidden fees in a variety of industries, prohibits rental housing providers from charging for services like pest control or trash disposal that are part of a landlord's basic responsibilities under state habitability laws.[125] Under this new law, landlords who continue to violate the law by charging hidden fees could be fined.[126] In January 2025, the state reached a $1 million settlement with Four Star Realty after an investigation "found numerous instances of the company illegally charging tenants for routine repairs and other services."[127] In response to that settlement, Four Star's CEO blamed "progressive tenant advocacy" for scrutinizing "practices that are widely used in the industry."[128] The Colorado Apartment Association also opposed retrofitting or new building requirements accommodating people with disabilities[129] or making emissions improvements. In April 2024 the Association, the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association, and other building owner and manager groups sued in federal court to block greenhouse gas reduction rules for buildings over 50,000 square feet passed by Denver and Colorado governments. The Association's spokesperson Hamrick said, "The state government and local government had their opportunity to say how an apartment building was built in 1956" and any further changes imposed — say, in this century — would be "ungodly expensive."[130]

CONCLUSION

Coloradans are not alone in the struggle for an affordable and sustainable place to live amidst a tightening grip of corporate control over our housing options, the way our cities develop, and the income we have to afford a home. Across the country, people's basic needs are being pushed out of reach while our avenues for protecting ourselves and improving the conditions of our daily lives are increasingly restricted by corporate interference. And no matter where we live, the same set of corporations are very often working through state industry groups to buy, bully, and bamboozle our lawmakers into governing in ways that favor corporate profit over public good.[131]

As our communities grapple with the transformative changes needed to truly push back on the corporate-authoritarian stranglehold on American life, exposing and disrupting the corporate playbook that got us here will be paramount. Indeed, state government has been — and continues to be — a pivotal testing ground for the current federal regime. After working for decades to push state bans on local policymaking — and proclaiming the superiority of state government — corporations are now recycling the same buy, bully, and bamboozle tactics they've honed at the state level to push for federal bans on state regulations. Major tech corporations have spent at least $100 million to influence federal lawmakers and argued against a "patchwork of regulation" in their efforts to block state governments from creating regulations to protect people from the myriad potential harms of AI,[132] for example. And many of the same corporations and billionaire CEOs in industry groups behind state bans across the country have unapologetically aligned with Trump's authoritarian agenda through contracts enabling mass surveillance, kidnappings and detentions by ICE,[133] unquestioned rollbacks of DEI policies,[134] and directly funding Trump's personal projects.[135]

Collectively, we must expose the corporations that have plundered our lives and banned our freedom for too long. Familiarizing ourselves with their false claims, tired talking points, egregious buys, and dirty threats can equip us to better fight back. Corporations developed these tactics to curtail the power of everyday people. Yet we have seen that when communities organize across race, class, gender, and geography to defy corporate greed and authoritarian power grabs, we can push corporations to end their complicity in attacks on our communities and reverse the march towards autocracy. Together, we can make their playbook a losing game and build an economy and democracy that truly serves the people and our needs, not corporations and their greed.

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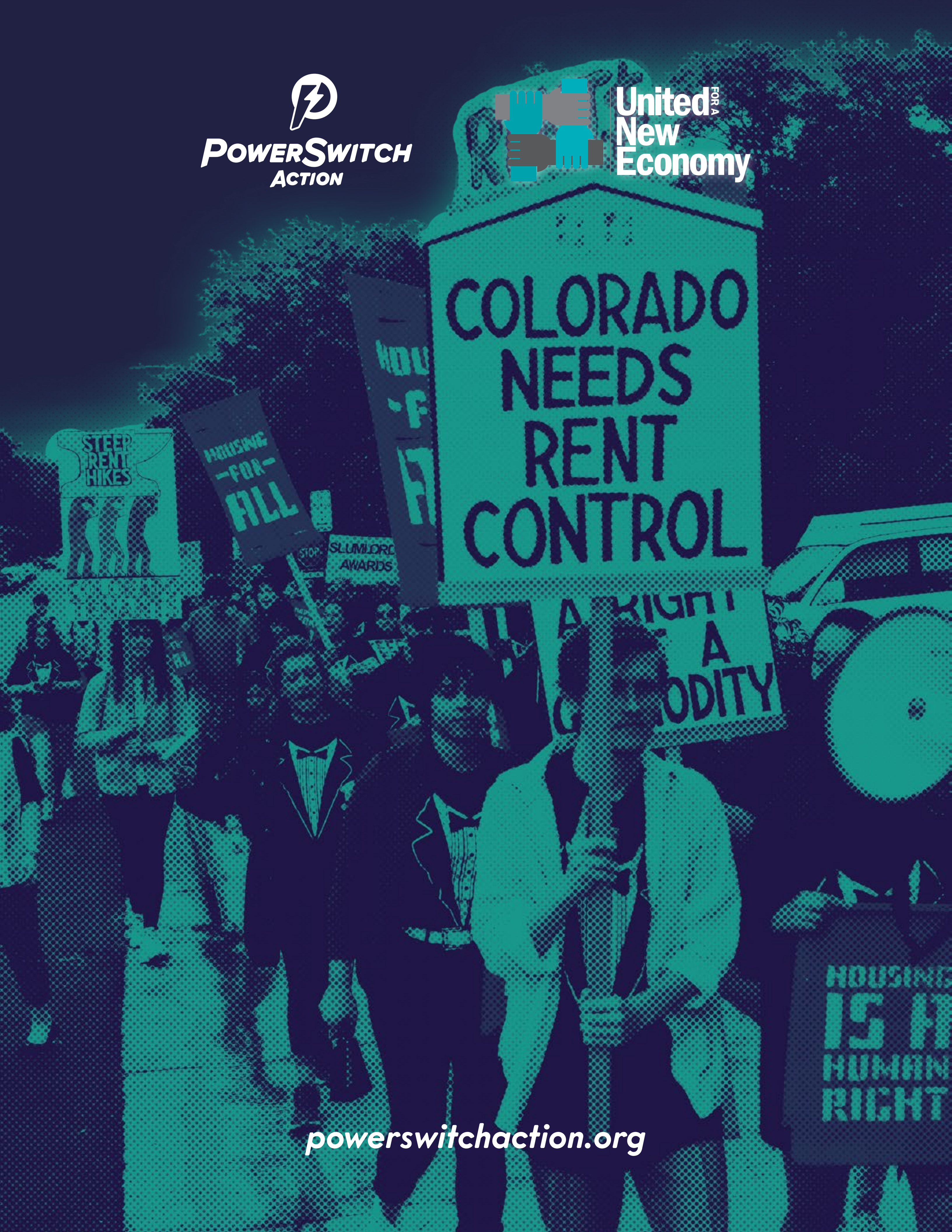

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