

Support for HB 3007

Between roughly 2002 – 2006, eight (8) out of ten (10) mobile home parks within a four (4) mile radius around where I live, were closed for re-development. A meeting was arranged to help residents to relocate. I attended that meeting. I will never forget their panic and despair. One woman in her 80s, walking with a cane and a limp, repeatedly told me “I have no family and no money and nowhere to go”. She was totally bewildered and had a deer-in-the-headlights stare. How can such treatment of Americans be allowed?

Those properties have mostly been untouched since then but lately much building activity has started up. I live in Seminole Mobile Estates in Beaverton, Oregon. With so much building activity going on around us, our fear of eviction increases for every day. Will the same fate of eviction happen to us and our neighbors one day? If our tight-knit community is broken up and the residents scattered, like dandelion seeds - loneliness, depression, anxieties and health problems are likely to blossom, at a big expense to the residents, the wider community and the society as a whole. Our seniors deserve better. They deserve respect, honor, and thanks for their service and sacrifices.

Most of my experience with mobile home parks is from my personal experience, living in Seminole Mobile Estates, which is marketed as a “55+ active retirement community”. Yes, we are a close knit community and I feel fortunate to live here. I live in a community with much love, kindness, and supportive relationships.

A multimillionaire movie director in Hollywood, Tom Shadyac, moved from a 17,000-square-foot mansion into a mobile home. He said: “I think true success is intrinsic... It’s love. It’s kindness. It’s community.” - I wish everyone could experience this kind of success. - (<http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Tom-Shadyac-From-Millionaire-to-Mobile-Home>).

Mayo Clinic states on their website (<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/social-support/SR00033>) that some of the benefits of supportive relationships are a sense of belonging, increased sense of self-worth, and a feeling of security. According to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, the above needs come right after the most important need, which is the physiological (oxygen, food, water, sleep, etc.). In other words, these needs are very important for the welfare of individuals and, in turn, communities.

Many veterans live here in Seminole Estates. They have made many sacrifices to protect this country and its citizens – maybe even you or your loved ones.

Many teachers live here. They have educated the children – maybe even you or your loved ones.

Many nurses live here. They have cared for the sick - maybe even for you or your loved ones.

Now, most of them are retired seniors, grandparents, even great grandparents, but still they unselfishly continue to care for others. When someone in our park is sick, others lovingly send cards, flowers, prepare meals, feed the pets, go out with the dog, provide rides to doctors or hospital, anything they can do to help and support others. Just like they have done their whole lives.

Making a lot of money was not these seniors’ goals. They worked unselfishly to serve, to protect, to educate, to heal, and to care for the American people. Should our thanks for their service be to possibly throw them out on the street, with nowhere to go? I hope not. Let’s do what is right and ethical to what Tom Brokaw called “The Greatest Generation” by caring for the ones who have cared for the American people – maybe even cared for you or your loved ones.

I strongly support HB 3007.

Thank you,
Marianne Bratt
100 SW 195th Ave, Unit 165
Beaverton, OR 97006

(Within the district of Rep. Joe Gallegos)
March 20, 2013