

To Members of the Oregon House of Representatives Human Services and Housing Committee:

As a resident of a manufactured home park, my husband and I would like to think we will be able to continue living in our home until our health requires other, way more expensive, accommodations. When we moved here in 1997 our rent was \$316 a month. I said to him, “One day it will be \$350, you know. Can we handle that as retirees?” As of June 1, 2013, our rent will be \$525. Other living expenses, such as water, sewer, garbage, waste water and storm water, electricity, property taxes, and other governmental assessments have also all increased over the years. Our Social Security Cost of Living adjustments have not kept up. Indeed, I am seeing a raise of ten cents this year in my Social Security. Fortunately, we have other sources of income besides Social Security, but I know of people in other parks who must make their government checks stretch to cover not only food and necessary medications, but also similar increases in rent and utilities.

From what we’ve heard about residents who have been able to buy their parks, both in Oregon and other states, rents **decrease** after an initial period of organization. Given an opportunity to purchase, we can maintain independence and not be a drain on social services. If we can age in place in our homes, we save government—taxpayers—a great deal of money and we can continue to enjoy and be proud of our chosen life style. The sense of community offered by manufactured home parks appeals to everyone with whom I’ve ever spoken.

Therefore, it seems to me that HB 3007, which would give park residents a chance to own their communities, is a winner of a bill. It will help not only residents of parks, but also current Oregon landlords who will receive a capital gains tax break, and the state of Oregon won’t find many of us looking to government to help us survive.

Sincerely,

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