

Thank you Representatives. My name is Pam Maxey. I live at Hillcrest Acres Manufactured Home Community in Kalamazoo. Hillcrest is owned by RHP properties, a private equity firm that owns over 50 manufactured home communities in Michigan alone, and is one of the biggest private equity owners of manufactured housing communities in the country. I have lived here with my family for 8 years in a community of 150 home sites, approximately half of which sit vacant. Over the 8 years our rent has increased every year while the living conditions decrease.

Over recent years more and more street lights throughout the park quit working. I asked management many times to replace them to no avail. I had given up asking, until December 2023. On the morning of December 14th, when all the children were walking to the school bus stop in the pitch dark, a drug dealer was carjacked at gunpoint just paces away from my home. The police told me the people involved didn't live in our community but drove here because it was, and I quote, "so dark and isolated." I asked for street lights once again after that. To this day we do not have them.

In 2018 my neighbors' home burned down. Everyone was alright, but the home was a total loss. Five years later, it still hadn't been removed. In March 2023 I filed a complaint with the Township asking them to force RHP to remove it. RHP did remove it, but they retaliated by issuing a long series of arbitrary lease violations against my family and neighbors. This is common practice here. The day after we passed out fliers last week, they came through issuing lease violations for things like a ladder stored outside and a planter on the porch with no plant in it. Residents are harassed to the point of eviction while at the same time RHP does nothing about the upwards of 30 blighted homes in our community that present numerous health, safety and building code violations.

In June 2023 a close by neighbor informed me there was sewage coming up into his home from his bathroom sink, tub and toilet. He informed park management, and they told him that even though it was coming up from the ground, it was up to him to fix it. In the meantime, it was left to bubble out of a pipe onto the ground. The next month I was walking my dog and

discovered a sewer leak one street behind me. It was bubbling up out of a pipe that was sticking up in a vacant lot, and it was running down into the neighbor's yard. We have had numerous sewer backups over the years, and now we have serious questions about the quality of water here.

When I reported this to the Kalamazoo County Health Department in July 2023, I learned that no government agency can come into our community and test our water. The Health Department told me to call the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). The EGLE explained to me that yes, they do oversee all community water supplies in Michigan, but Hillcrest has its own water supply system and is excluded from the way the state defines a community water supply. Hillcrest has what is called "customer site piping". This means that the community owner is responsible for assuring safe, potable water is getting to the residents, and they are abiding by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The sad fact is, our community owner just doesn't care. All of the people I talked to at EGLE and the Health Department were sympathetic and helpful, but their hands were tied.

We have extremely low water pressure though the park and countless water leaks, above and underground. We experience discolored water often. It smells bad. It ruins our appliances and plumbing. People report getting sick from drinking it, so most of us don't drink it. We pay for water we can't drink, and then we have to go out and buy more water. When I ask my neighbors why they do not complain more, the common response is "Because we have nowhere else to go." Their fear is real.

My fear is real too. I fully expect to face retaliation and harassment for giving this testimony and talking to the media. But I can't stand by while my neighbors, many of whom are seniors and people with disabilities, get treated this way. I can't be quiet while this is happening to good people all over the state. In fact, there is currently a class action lawsuit happening in a mobile home park in Battle Creek going through the same issues. If you won't stand up for me, I hope you will stand up for them. House Bills 4886-4889 would do nothing to protect us, and in fact would make it easier

for unscrupulous companies to steal our homes. I strongly oppose these bills and I urge you to do the same. Thank you for listening.