

George Krise

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Statement of support for LD #1931 Legislation

I am the founding and current President of Sunset Terrace Mobile Home Cooperative, a Resident Owned Community.

In September of 2015 the residents were approached by Jessica Pooley of Cooperative Development Institute to have us purchase the park. That began five months of meetings and training to organize us into the corporation that now owns the park. I still cannot believe we completed the process so quickly. We had to get the residents informed and then agree to the acquisition, assess the park value, and make an offer, establish the corporation, set up a board and the committees that run the park, establish and approve the organizational documents (Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Park Rules), and establish and approve our policies for operation of the park (too many to list). All of this before we could close on the sale and start the real work of managing a business.

This legislation allows residents the time to consider organizing as their own landlords. It is not a matter to be taken lightly, or in haste, but it is a decision the residents should be offered and given enough time to organize the residents and take a vote. It is not an individual making a purchase, or even an existing company, but a group of individuals that need the time for the initial organization to happen.

In the seven years we have owned the park there has been one lot rent increase, not one per year, and the residents overwhelmingly agreed that it was needed for the proper operation of the park.

I believe we made the right decision, and highly recommend that any Mobile Home Community consider this solution.

Thank you!