

# An Open Letter to the Governor

Bobbie Hemmerich

This open letter to Governor Minner, with copies to our legislators and attorney general, and the ensuing Supreme Court case, unfortunately did NOT bring us the help that we so desperately needed. MHC Inc. and other large, out-of-state community owners have been given the “green light” to continue with business as usual.

However, we have succeeded in making many good people, both in and out of government, aware of our plight and the very real need to maintain and create more affordable housing. We, in manufactured housing communities, are uniting with other groups and organizations to bring our issues to the forefront. This is an election year and we will be looking long and hard at the candidates to see who shares our concerns and will help to achieve our goals. We will investigate other options and will continue to strive to educate people living on leased land communities so that they will know their rights and be able to “right their wrongs.”

By working together, all things are possible! (B.H.)

February 24, 2004

Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
State of Delaware

I am one of the unfortunate residents of this great state who owns a home in an MHC community and I am looking to you, to my legislators, to our lawmakers and court system, and to all concerned citizens for help.

What is happening in all of the MHC parks is absolutely criminal. Management takes the law and twists it and turns it until it is not recognizable anymore. When Sussex County Judge T. Henley Graves took

away the 5% rent cap in our leases, he released a fire-breathing dragon of huge proportions. Rents have been increased up to 50-70% (\$45 to \$200 per month) in some cases, which will result in “forced evictions” of residents unable to pay these amounts.

Our Attorney General has filed an appeal with the Supreme Court, but in the meantime, MHC has come out with new leases and are literally “holding a gun” to residents’ backs

saying that if they don’t sign them PRIOR to the appeal, they will be withdrawn and rents will continue to skyrocket. This is nothing short of blackmail, and yet they seem to be getting away with it!

Many of us are older folks on fixed incomes or disability. We purchased our homes because we thought we had protection in our leases against this craziness. Now we are scared and worried that we will lose our homes. Where will we go? Is the State of Delaware prepared to deal with perhaps thousands of new homeless citizens who need affordable housing?

This out-of-state company is riding roughshod over all of us. They claim that they can’t afford to maintain our communities properly, yet they spend millions of dollars purchasing new property all over the country. They also paid extra dividends to their investors! This is blood money, short and simple.

Please, on behalf of hundreds of your constituents in MHC communities, help us. Put a stop to this insanity and let MHC know that this will not be tolerated in Delaware!

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CC: Members of DE General Assembly



Paul Bradley, Vice President of the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, addresses the afternoon break-out session on manufactured housing cooperatives at the May 5, 2004 DHC Annual Meeting, “Housing for the Long Haul.”.