

Testimony in Support of SB 586

Nancy Inglehart
Manufactured Home Owner, Gresham, Or
Executive Board member MH-OSTA
Mediator, East Metro Mediation

Chair Fagen, Vice-Chair Heard and Committee members: I write in support of SB 586

I have been a manufactured home owner since 1999. I live on a modest income in Multnomah County. After experiencing park issues, I consulted with MH-OSTA to gain information and knowledge on how to handle the problems we were having.

I joined MH-OSTA five years ago and became a board member and area director four years ago. I also actively participate in the MH L/T Coalition.

The major issue that homeowners have is that there is no avenue for them to enforce rules that are not being followed. The mediation component to SB 586 is a free service if facilitated through one of Oregon's 16 Dispute Resolution Centers. This is vital to homeowners. There are many 55+ parks with residents on fixed incomes who often cannot afford attorneys. SB 586 requires mandatory mediation as a first step.

I trained to become a mediator because parties are actively involved in resolving their own issues. I know the success rate of mediation is very high. (East Metro Mediation's success rate is currently 90%).

Manufactured Housing Communities are more than the buildings, roads and infrastructure. The residents are the vibrant hub of their community. They should be afforded the peaceful enjoyment of their community. Mediation is a way to get people talking, solving their disputes and resolving their problems.

I am confident that this can be achieved by supporting this bill.

Please vote for it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Inglehart