

Patricia Ingram

Filbert Grove Cooperative President

Springfield, OR 97477

Two years ago our manufactured housing park was going to be sold, with the distinct possibility of redevelopment, meaning that all of us would lose our residences after due notice.

Our homes all date to the early 1970s, 1971 mostly, and you can't get a permit to move them, nor an affordable place to move them.

The owner was required to give our community a chance to buy itself, and a devoted cadre of residents, with the help of CASA and NOAH, and various advisors, put together a purchase in roughly ten business days. Ten business days for a multi-million dollar purchase, starting flat-footed with little warning.

Without the support of these agencies and the state of Oregon, we could not have preserved this park as a low income housing community. Now we offer a housing alternative that is close to shopping, medical care, transportation, all because some people got together and did something.

I and my fellow community members would like to ask that the state of Oregon continue to support the programs and the commitment that it took to make it possible for our community and

in the future, for other communities in danger of re-development. Developers look at properties like ours and start drooling. They wanted to put in a convention center. We need low income housing, not a convention center. The need hasn't changed for residents of this state. We need a place to live, one that is a home, not just a warehouse for elderly people. Filbert Grove Cooperative proves that we can create a community and manage it ourselves. It isn't easy. But it's ours.