



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2601

**Submitted by Dolores Raymond, Member
Governor's Commission on Senior Services
March 5, 2007**

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*Senator Bill Morrisette,
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Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dolores Raymond, and I am a resident of Washington County. I am sorry that I am once again unable to testify in person, since affordable housing in general and manufactured housing in particular are such passionate interests of mine. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services.

As we have expressed to you previously, affordable housing for seniors is very much on the minds of the members of the Commission and the seniors that we have talked with throughout the state. At our community forums last year, we heard from seniors in both rural and urban Oregon about this issue as a pressing need at this time.

Also, as we have expressed to you previously, the Commission is concerned that *the legislature strike an appropriate balance* in apportioning the cost burden and the responsibility for displacement of mobile home owners between the public at large, and the park owners and developers whose actions result in displacement.

So far this session, we have declined to lend our voice in support of several bills introduced to expand tax credits to those displaced from manufactured home parks. We believe that government alone should not have to pay the costs of this phenomenon.

However, House Bill 2601, in establishing the Manufactured Structure Relocation Fund to make grants, loans and other payments to manufactured home owners who are displaced from their parks is a good piece of public policy, and an important part of a larger solution.

The Governor's Commission on Senior Services is pleased to support this piece of legislation, and expresses our appreciation to those legislators who brought this bill forward.

