



Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association

P.O. Box 248 • 315 Limekiln Road • New Cumberland, PA 17070

(717) 774-3440 Fax: (717) 774-5596 (888) 242-7642

Web site: www.pmha.org • E-mail: general@pmha.org

April 22, 2014

Honorable Kate Harper
Majority Chairwoman
House Local Government Committee
PA House of Representatives
P.O. Box 202217
Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2217

Re: House Bill 161 Amendment A05852

Dear Chairwoman Harper:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association, I am writing to you in regards to House Bill 161 and in particular proposed Amendment A05852. We thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and ask that this letter be made part of the hearing testimony on the assessment of manufactured homes which is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Since 2010 we have been working with Representative Dan Moul on this issue and we support his efforts to bring fairness to the assessment and appeals process for manufactured homes. We receive numerous calls and emails annually from consumers complaining about high taxes being levied on their manufactured homes.

In regards to Amendment A05852, we offer comments on the following two sections:

- Section 8802. We support changing terminology to include “manufactured home.” Pennsylvania’s tax assessment laws are extremely outdated when it comes to describing homes that are built in a factory and typically sited in land leased communities. “House trailers” and “mobile homes” have not been built since 1976 due to the Federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 going into effect. We support the removal of “house trailer” and we support the language in the amendment defining “manufactured home” and “mobile home.”

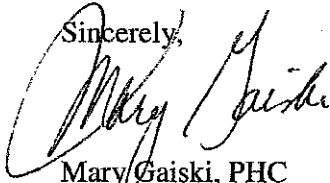
Honorable Kate Harper, Majority Chairwoman
House Local Government Committee
April 22, 2014
Page 2

- Section 8821 (a.1)(1). We have a concern with limiting a national directory or valuation guide to a “noncomputerized version.” Though valuation books are in print now, requiring the use of noncomputerized books may soon become an obsolete model since the trend today in both the public and private sector is to move information, forms, and processes to the internet. Because of this, we highly recommend that you remove “noncomputerized version” from Section 8821(a.1)(1). This will allow assessors and appeal board’s access to the most current information available not only today but well into the future.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide you with our thoughts on this amendment. Additionally, we applaud Representative Dan Moul for bringing fairness to the assessment and appeals process for over 240,000 families who live in manufactured homes across the state.

If you have questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Mary Gaiski, PHC
Executive Vice President

Cc: House Local Government Committee
Representative Dan Moul
Milliron & Goodman LLC