



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 5, WITH AMENDMENT 1

Manufactured Housing

March 2021

The League of Women Voters urges your support of HB 5, with its amendment.

As we are all aware, this bill relates to the final meeting, mandated in the **Delaware Code**, to be held when landowners wish to increase land rent that exceeds the relevant Consumer Price Index. The meeting provides an opportunity for all affected parties to be present to discuss the reasons for the proposed increase.

Some of those who have a vested interest in the matter were omitted from the list of those who were originally authorized to be present during this meeting, and this measure corrects that. The various parties added appear to have a legitimate interest in the issue at hand.

We want to highlight the fact that this bill authorizes elected officials to be allowed to be present at these meetings. This is appropriate and is aligned with the League of Women Voters' support for measures to promote a more effective and responsive legislative branch of government.

Being present in the kinds of meetings at issue here will enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of our legislators, as they will gain first-hand knowledge of a matter affecting one whole segment of our population. Indeed, anything in the **Delaware Code** is subject to consideration and possible amendment by our Legislature, and the meeting described in this bill certainly is. We believe that legislators should be able to observe any part of a legislatively-created process, so that they can carry out their mandated functions – to ensure that the laws of our state work for the people they were designed to protect.

Just to reflect on Amendment #1, it adds another totally appropriate party to the list of those who may attend the meeting.

We urge you to act favorably on HB 5 and allow it to move to the House floor.