Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky in Support of SB 988, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF A MOBILE MANUFACTURED HOME PARK BY ITS RESIDENTS

Before the Housing Committee February 14, 2023

Thank you for raising this bill, which is sorely needed. Many residents in my town of Wallingford live in mobile manufactured homes, which provide them affordable and safe housing. Most of these residents are seniors of modest income, and if they lost their rented space in the mobile home park they would be homeless. In my town of Wallingford, seniors wait as long as 4 years for entry into the limited number of affordable senior apartments. A recent national trend is alarming: investors and developers are buying out mobile home parks and evicting the elderly residents who live there. As you can imagine, eviction is traumatic for these seniors of modest means who expected to live in their homes for the rest of their lives.

This bill, which sets up a process for residents to purchase the mobile home park as a group with the help of CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) financing is the product of a coalition of residents, advocates and legislators like me who fought to give these residents equal rights as homeowners many years ago. I don't see any other way for these residents to protect their homes if the Housing Committee and the legislature doesn't pass SB 988. Please help these seniors defend their homes by passing this measure.