

## Testimony on SB 2159

Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

Mindy Teske

January 20, 2021

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Mindy Teske, a resident of Colonial Estates Mobile Home Park here in Bismarck. In full disclosure, I am a session employee and have permission from the employment committee to provide this testimony.

When most people talk about the American dream, they include home ownership. I love my home and I love my neighbors. I own my home, but I rent the land that sits under it. For most of the time that I have lived there, I have experienced the quiet enjoyment of my property.

In August of 2019, my world was turned upside down. Colonial Estates came under new ownership from out of state wealthy investors. The one-page lease we had under the previous owner became a thirty-page lease. While it was whittled down to nine pages after the residents came together, it still dictates to us how others want us to live our lives.

Our rent was increased from \$ 385/mo to \$ 415/mo. Utilities that were previously included in the rent were now added. They had water meters installed to sub-meter and charge the residents. The city said they couldn't do that, and they removed the meters.

Several residents have moved out. Several residents have been evicted. We all live in fear that one month of missed rent could cost us our home. I hope you can pass this bill and I hope you can do whatever you can to allow us to once again experience the quiet enjoyment of our homes. Thank you.