



BLUFF CITY *MX-2003-0187*
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JUN 27 2003

**Missouri Public
Service Commission**

June 23, 2003

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary
MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
P.O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102

REF: Proposed Rule 4CSR 240-120.085 Inspection Fee
Title 4-Department of Economic Development
Division 240-Public Service Commission
Chapter 120-New Manufactured Homes

Dear Mr. Roberts,

Please accept this letter as a formal PROTEST to the above mentioned "Proposed Rule 4CSR 240-120.85 Inspection Fee." I have been in business in the state of Missouri for twenty-four years. Sometimes things aren't always as they appear on the surface. Your proposed rule for an "inspection fee" smells like a tax, looks like a tax, and walks like a tax so therefore it **MUST BE A TAX!** The manufactured housing business in this state is off by approximately 65% in sales and shipments as compared to the past few years. There are desperate times for small business. Most of the dealerships that operate in the state of Missouri are indeed small businesses. The first thing that a small business does in the event of a "budget crunch" is to **CUT EXPENSES, LAY-OFF PEOPLE and TIGHTEN OUR BELTS** before we are forced to increase our prices. I feel that it is only in the best interest of the taxpayers of the state that the PSC attempt these measures before imposing a "tax increase". Our industry cannot take much more. Looking at the big picture, the proposed rule would in effect be one more blow to an already wounded industry. Why kill the goose that lays the golden eggs? Small business is the backbone of the economy in our state as well as the rest of the nation. We are already burdened to the point of breaking with government intervention.

Manufactured housing, by design, is to give the buyer a more cost effective means of housing. This housing is for those who cannot afford the higher cost of site built homes. Somehow we have abandoned that consumer who, in times past, appreciated the lower cost of pre-manufactured homes. This fee will be passed on to the consumer, driving

manufactured housing prices up even more as the manufacturers, as well as the dealers struggle against the overhead forced upon them by the government.

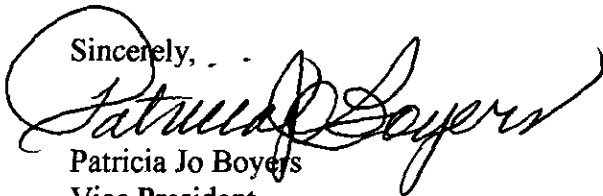
Who wins? Inspection fees hurt the consumer, the dealer and the manufacturer.

There are no criteria in the proposed rules as to what constitutes a legitimate complaint. Our industry members feel that there are too many frivolous complaints now and that without charging the consumer an inspection fee of some sort, the complaints will increase, especially if someone has "buyer's remorse" and continues to call the PSC for re-inspections time after time.

We simply cannot afford this new tax. The PSC recently put into effect a \$30.00 inspection fee on all homes shipped into Missouri. You have also raised the seals on Modular Units in order to cover their projected shortfall.

As you can see, I have forwarded a copy of this letter to all of my state legislators and senators. Please reconsider the heavy-handed tax increase.

Sincerely, . . .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Jo Boyers", written over a circular flourish.

Patricia Jo Boyers
Vice President

cc: Senator Peter Kinder, Senator Bill Foster, Senator Sarah Steelman,
Senator Delbert Scott, Speaker Catherine Hanaway, Speaker Pro-Tem Rod Jetton,
Rep. Jason Crowell, Rep. Gayle Kingery, Rep. Rob Mayer, Rep. Otto Bean,
Rep. Lanie Black, Rep. Peter Myers, Rep. Mike Dethrow, Rep. Shannon Cooper,
Rep. Brad Roark, Rep. Chris Shoemaker & Rep. Carl Bearden