



WATCHDOG

Guarding manufactured/mobile home owner rights

March 10, 2022

Greetings all,

Last Friday, I had the pleasure to report to you that the Legislature had passed a final version of the bill that will extend the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program for 10 years. It is now scheduled to sunset, (end), on June 30, 2032. The budget provides the spending authority for \$ 2.8 million, of the \$10 M total, directed to the Mobile Home Tie-Down Program specifically.

For several weeks I have been working toward obtaining additional funding to be dedicated to the wait list for the Program.

Today I am so pleased to report that this year's budget has an additional \$7 million dedicated to the MH Tie-Down Program.

This is final action by the Legislature. There are no amendments permitted to the Conference Report that is the budget... so no legislator can remove it! The final budget was made public about an hour ago!

Senator Ed Hooper, (Palm Harbor), placed the \$7M in the Senate budget with the approval of the Appropriations Chair, Senator Kelli Stargel, (Lakeland), and President Wilton Simpson, (Spring Hill).

At the first opportunity, the House accepted the line item and included it at their end as well.

Representative Matt Willhite, (Wellington), our bill sponsor was helpful in doing this with the approval and support of Representative Jayer Williamson, (Pace), Chair of Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Jay Trumbull, (Panama City), House Appropriations Chair, and House Speaker Chris Sprows, (Clearwater).

Hooray!!! Very exciting news to share!

Obviously, my next attention will be two-fold:

- To appropriately thank legislators for supporting the underlying bill and also the additional funding!
- To protect both our legislation and the additional funding from a possible veto.

Stay tuned! Timing is everything!

Thanks to all of you who actually took action during the Session to reach out to Legislators. You followed the script and it played to our benefit. I think I will be able to sleep tonight.

This is what I call: PEOPLE POWER!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stewart
FMO Legislative Counsel