

Testimony for Manufactured Housing Discussion

October 4, 2016

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify on the economic impact of manufactured housing on Clarion County and our region. My name is Jill Foys. I am the Executive Director of the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission. The Commission was created in 1967 as a Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Northwest Commission's service area includes Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties. In the area of business assistance, we serve as the Northwest region's PREP Coordinator, provide technical assistance to new and expanding businesses in the areas of Export Marketing, Government Contracting, and Business Financing. In addition to being the Director of the Northwest Commission, I am on the Executive Board and Youth Council Committee of the Northwest PA Local Workforce Development Board, am a member of the North Clarion School Board of Directors and represent our school on the Joint Operating Committee of the Clarion County Career Center.

You have heard from industry leaders about the successes and challenges of manufacturing in Clarion County and how the multipliers of supply chain employment and tax base benefit our county and region. I would echo those comments. Stable, successful manufacturers benefit the region by providing family sustaining wages and benefits. In addition, the supply chain to the manufactured housing industry including those who provide components of the homes and transportation of the finished product add to the number of families and communities positively affected by the presence of these manufacturers in Clarion County.