

Marlene Dewald, Onalaska, WI

June 6, 2024

My husband and I are the parents of one of the affected residents, Lara Philbrick-Dewald. We promise to protect her as best we can from this unjust situation.

**There are actually 7 family groupings affected here: Christy, Natalie, Terri, Diane & Paul, Jeff, Lara, Ildie, Ginny & Rick, Todd.** Their names should all be spoken because they are all people deserving fair treatment. They are smart, perceptive, compassionate people all managing well and contributing to society as long as they have their affordable housing which they have worked so hard for.

Yesterday I took the time to walk and drive along Pammel Creek. It was highly enlightening. Just on the other side of the highway residents live extremely close to the Pammel Creek Canal... literally it is "in their back yard." I measured **40 feet** from the back of one home to the canal wall. 40 feet. The canal goes on for several miles with homes all along. **Are we and the community expected to believe that on one side of the highway there needs to be a 100 foot buffer and on the other side of the highway that doesn't matter? Are we to believe that the same Pammel Creek Canal is subject to failing on one side of the highway but not the other? Are we to believe the changing weather patterns and violent rainfalls are happening on one side and not the other?? Where is the consistency in rules, regulations, dangers and precautions?** I submit it seems like these families have been singled out because they are lower income and in mobile homes. They don't own the land they are on, but they do own their mobile homes and also pay significantly for property taxes and city services.

The resident group has been pleading to be heard amidst the loud opposing voices of the City and Real Estate Owners. Let's work together to make this a good solution for the residents. It's important to focus on the now and the future, but also **I believe** we need to look at the past to understand it and for both sides to assume their responsibility to these residents and make it right and fair. I do believe some progress in negotiation is being made and for that we are very **grateful**. We need the resolution but with many positive revisions. Thank you.