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**JJB**

*John J. Bartko 143 Cherry Blossom Lane Newville PA 17241*

2008 SEP 19 PM 3: 11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVENUE COMMISSION

September 14, 2008

Gail Weidman  
Office of Long-Term Care Living  
Bureau of Policy and Strategic Planning  
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

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08 SEP 16 PM 12: 21  
BUREAU OF LTC PGMS  
REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_

**Re: Proposed Assisted Living Facilities Regulation**

Dear Ms. Weidman:

We write to express our concern about the overly stringent proposed regulations for licensing assisted living facilities. As residents living independently at Green Ridge Village in Newville, we have both personal and community interest in this issue.

There are two facilities on our campus where residents live with help in activities of daily living. On of these, Gilliland Manor was completed in January 1941. It was an innovative dwelling designed for central Pennsylvanians to age in place, built at a time when most similar residences were converted mansions of wealthy benefactors. The Manor is a beautiful stone structure with 22-inch walls and large windows overlooking an idyllic rural landscape, but it will be impossible to fully utilize the building as an assisted living residence under your proposed rules.

Why? As many as eight of its rooms cannot meet the requirement to have 175 square feet for each individual unit. Even an expanded dining room, for which a capital campaign has recently raised funds, cannot meet the requirement of 15 square feet for each person. As residents of Green Ridge Village who may need to move to assisted living in the future, we are deeply troubled and very worried about the prospect of either losing Gilliland Manor or having everyone in our community have to pay an enormous levy to keep it open with an assisted living license.

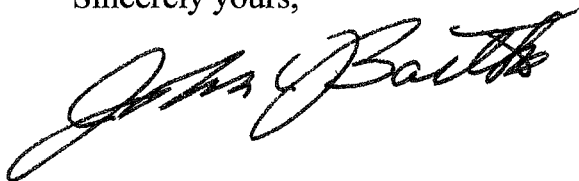
Page 2 of 2 to Ms Gail Weidman

The costs that would be imposed on Green Ridge Village to meet new licencing costs, staffing costs, and vehicle costs are prohibitive. These changes would not result in qualitatively better care for residents. Instead they would make the expense of such facilities prohibitive for many people of modest income. The effect of inflation on stable income pensions and annuities creates a strain we all feel as we pay the necessarily increasing costs of living at Green Ridge Village.

**To impose a staggering sum of \$728,255.00, the estimate of our administration for initial compliance with the regulations, with commensurate annual increases, is deeply distressing to us. This was not the intent of Act 56, which we believe was meant to improve the quality of life for elderly citizens by guaranteeing safe alternatives for us as we age.**

We trust that you will seriously and thoughtfully consider these comments as you formulate the final regulations.

Sincerely yours,



John J. Bartko



Mary Kay Bartko

cc: Senator Patricia Vance  
Representative Will Gabig  
Representative Bill shuster  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
Nick Luciano, PANPHA