[This email was received by Pete Travis of Quincy, MI for a hearing about House Bills 5711-5716. Pete has given the Sierra Club permission to use his email message to help others understand the devastating impacts of living near a CAFO. He is willing to speak to anyone to answer questions or to provide insight into this issue. His phone numbers are below.]

Testimony from Pete Travis, Quincy MI

I can't be there because of my health. I have bad breathing problems and can't walk too far. I am sending you a letter I wrote about 4 years ago. I hope it will help. WE HAD A GOOD LIFE.

My name is Pete Travis. I live in Quincy Mi. I'm a 62 year old male. My wife and I have lived in our home for 36 years, we had a good life, family and friends came over and we had cook-outs about every weekend. We have worked most of our life to get what we have: Our home, two cars, a motor home and money in the bank. We had good health. WE HAD A GOOD LIFE.

Then came the state-of the-art-HOG BARNS with pits with 4000 stinking hogs 750 feet from our home. Now our life is a living HELL. Our friends stopped coming, our grand kids don't come and spend the night with us. Your life is not the same, you can't go outside when you want to. You might spend three to four days locked inside, no cookouts.

You plan your days on what way the wind blows and you don't plan days ahead. Then there is your house. You seal all your windows, plug all your vents, like your dryer, put in central air. You will never sleep with your windows open again.

Then there is your health, I went from good health and working everyday to bad health and not working. I have to wear oxygen a lot of the time. The odor is so bad in the summer that I have had to go to a motel, when I'm gone for a few days I can breath and I feel great, I come home I can't breath my eyes and lungs burn. I am 62 years old and there are days when I am so weak that I have trouble walking. I have been to some of the best Dr's from the Mayo Clinic to the University of Michigan. They all tell me the same thing: MOVE, which can't be done because we can't sell our house.

Now is the time to stop them. Once they build the state will pass new laws to protect them. I have spent about $50,000 on Attorneys fees and five years of my life trying to stop them and it's still in the courts. So stop them now before it's too late, once they build one you will have a lot more.

As far as the ODOR there is no way of stopping it, you can smell these barns up to 5 miles, so *you* should live 750 feet from them. The odor burns your eyes and lungs. THATS WHY I CAN'T BREATH TOO GOOD. Thanks, Pete Travis. GOOD LUCK.

Pete Travis
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OK for media and legislators to call.