

Megan Murray Testimony

My name is Megan Murray and I was raised in the Mayfair section until my parents moved us to south Jersey when I was a preteen.

I loved Philly and always wanted to come back. Now, the city I loved and called home has left me feeling broken.

In 2017, I bought a new condo in the Olde Kensington/Ludlow section built by Streamline. The first year in my home had various "little things" happen. A pipe wasn't soldered, toilet not flushing and electrical issues causing the outlets to trip.

In August 2018, I started to become aware of just how bad my condo was built. 3 out of 7 units, including myself in the building had a sewer backup. Three feet of black water was in my house. All my furniture was ruined. There were black water stains all over the walls. My favorite memories of my grandfather: his favorite rosary and the hat he gave me as a newborn...gone.

At this point I was over my one year warranty. I had to plead and beg to get streamline to do anything about it. The only reason they even stepped in to help was because I got a local neighborhood association involved to help me fight. While I was fighting I had a house with no floors, no drywall and water coming in. I had to spend weeks in a hotel because the condo was not liveable.

That was just the beginning. Every time there is about 2 inches of rain or more I end up with water in my condo.

I have contacted the attorney general. They tried to mediate and streamline said no, quoting an article I was featured in, where the news reported it was fixed.

I have contacted lawyers who told me I could fight. It will probably take about three to five years. It is costly and not to mention the emotional toll. And in the meantime I still have to live in the house and deal with the issues.

We contacted roofers, engineers and contractors all who have different theories on what can be done to fix it but they are all DIY projects because the house was built wrong. The top engineering company in the city said there is no fix.

My unit is underground with no way to drain the water outside. All the roof water comes into a gutter that goes into a window well where the pipe goes into a sump pump that is not powerful enough to get all the water out.

The solution we decided to go with was to put two water containment units, 500 gallons each, in the well to hold water during storms. We leave it on a slow drip so the water goes down slowly as to not flood the system. On top of the issue, the only way into the well is through a small window that swings out so it a process to get out there to do any maintenance.

I spent Four years living in only the top half of my house. I had to plan days out around storms because I needed to be home to clean up anything that happened. I started to have severe health issues such as passing out when it would rain because my body would literally just shut down.

On top of all of this, we had various other issues arise that I don't have time to get into. We lost backyard space because when our backyard neighbor went to do construction on their own home, they realized we were actually built over the property line by 5 feet.

In 2022, I was able to finally sell my home after 5 different tries over the years. During a hot market I took a loss on the sale. I sold it for exactly what I bought it for and gave sellers credits on top. So less than I bought it for five years later in a hotter market. The new owner knows everything and was still willing to take the risk. I know she still floods even though we thought the newest fix would work.

I now live in Delaware because the city and state that I loved did nothing for me. On principle I will never pay taxes in Pennsylvania ever again. In my opinion they do not care about their people to have allowed

this to happen and still continue. Seven years after I bought we still don't have laws to support homeowners, which is why I am here today to plead for you to change this.

A bunch of owners finally sued streamline, winning 3.2 million and was able to bankrupt them. Ironically their lawsuit was based on an article they wrote in response to my news article. They openly admitted "streamline then and streamline now are entirely different entities. That was really an upstart operation with people doing whatever they could to survive and make money." I am happy someone took them down but how about the hundreds of us that did not get help or support? We are just left to pick up the pieces, alone.

The laws protect the builders and let them get away with turning a profit and leaving the home owners to clean up the mess.

The laws need to change to support and protect the people of Pennsylvania.

I support this bill and hope that not another single person goes through what I, and so many others, have gone through.

At this point, it will not help me.

But if it was in place when I bought, I would not be in this situation.

It's time for the state of Pennsylvania to stand up for the people that live here and hold the developers responsible to build like they live here.

Thank you