We are residents of the Venture Out community here in Mesa. Venture Out is part of the area within the RV/MH subdivision zoning area that has a pending zoning ordinance to allow conventional construction within the zoning.

In the past, owners in Venture Out have been allowed to tear down their existing home and construct a new "park model" with the addition of an Arizona room/storage addition of up to 520 sq. ft. During the time this has been happening, there has been no known legal action involving the City of Mesa or Venture Out. There are several hundred older park models that have been replaced with these upgraded homes. This is a popular option for upgrading properties within the community. In fact, one of the builders in the park was going to stop doing this and just focus on bringing new park models into the park and adding the AZ/storage room. He had to change his plans and go back to offering the new builds due to the demand for the new builds. Many people didn't like the option of only being able to bring in a park model and add on to it.

Venture Out is one of a handful of parks in the zoning classification where lots are owned by the homeowner. Most of the parks within the zone are owned by another entity and charge a monthly pad fee for use of a lot space.

As I have talked with a number of current residents of the park, I find that they are in favor of having the option of either bringing in a park model or building a new home on their lot. As you consider this amendment, we would ask you to consider some of these points in your deliberation.

- 1. These new units are permanent additions to the park, and they upgrade the image of the park. These homes will last longer, have less maintenance and be inviting for future owners when they are resold.
- 2. People have been buying older units in the park with the expectation of being able to build a home that meets their needs. As we were out visiting with residents collecting signatures on the accompanying petition, the overwhelming response was that people wanted both options. Many told us that they had already bought a unit for teardown/rebuild within the next five years and others indicated that they were watching for a unit on a street they liked. The biggest objection that we heard was that the City of Mesa wanted to encourage the new builds because then they could raise more taxes. This comment was from a very small number of people amounting to well below 5% of the responses.
- 3. These small, rebuilt homes are a type of affordable housing for the Mesa community.
- 4. More and more residents are choosing to make Venture Out their permanent residence or are staying beyond the January to March period that used to be the typical season for winter visitors. They are in favor of these homes due to the upgraded energy efficiency, upgraded safety, upgraded quality of finish and the chance to build something that meets their needs. Many of the residents are also younger with the average age of residents in the park decreasing substantially over the last 5 years. This means more people will be living here for a longer period of years.
- 5. These homes provide benefits to the entire Mesa community. They provide jobs for local residents, increase the tax base for the city and are a way to compete with newer

communities in Maricopa County where 55+ communities are being built.. These 55+ communities offer recreational, craft and entertainment options that encourage an active lifestyle and help to provide a place where people can go for the winter and enjoy warmer weather. People want to be part of the community, and Venture Out is seen as a park that is well maintained and being updated. It provides an affordable option for housing. As you are aware, there are new developments throughout Maricopa and Pima county that cater to these residents. The numbers will only increase in the coming years. If these older parks are not kept up to date people will go elsewhere for their housing.

- 6. Venture Out is set up so that the lots are owned by the homeowners, not a for-profit company. HOA fees are paid for maintenance of the facilities and grounds available for all to use. They are very affordable compared to neighboring communities where land is not owned and pad fees are paid for use of the lot. Community pride is evident when driving through the park. Most homes are very well maintained and a large number of them are less than 20 years old.
- 7. Retaining the option to rebuild homes in the community provides a choice for residents. It also provides jobs for many in the community. The builders in the park employ a number of subcontractors on every house that is built. Many are from the city of Mesa. Materials are mostly purchased in Mesa providing additional sales tax revenue to the city.

The petition was not intended to survey every member of the community. We had a small group of people that spent most of one day talking to people and gathering signatures. The results are adequate in that they provide a statistically significant representation of the feelings of the community towards retaining the option to build from scratch or bring in a park model.

Your consideration of the amendment is appreciated and as residents of the community, we encourage you to approve the amendment. It provides another option for residents that will provide housing besides placing a new park model on their lot. We, as residents of Venture Out prefer to have the opportunity to choose how building sites can be improved besides just being able to place a new park model. We take pride in our community and want to be able to keep it updated so that we can continue to provide housing that will best meet the needs of the residents. Allowing the stick built homes provides an option, preferred by many, to the purchase of a park model.

Respectfully, Residents of Venture Out

In case there are questions or additional clarification is needed, please contact Brett Hansen at (801) 866-8120 or ovabrett@ gmail.com.

Please sign only one petition! Your support is appreciated!

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We would ask that you sign this petition if you are in favor of the option of continuing to allow complete rebuilds of homes in Venture Out. Please only sign one petition and be sure to include your address in Venture Out.

Thank you. Your support is appreciated.

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