

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY-REGION 7

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Betty L Brown
2962 Twinkle Hill Rd
Marshalltown Ia 50158

September 15, 2013

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: TSCA-07-2013-0022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am responding to the complaint once again I have received. I received the latest notice of your complaint on Saturday, September 14, 2013. I had thought this was finished 3 months ago when I spoke with several of you on the phone. Since then my cell phone has been shut off do to the LACK of money I have to pay the bill. First off, as I explained on the phone, I do NOT agree that I should be fined ANY amount of money for the infractions your "agent" found as I was unaware of this pamphlet that I was to be giving my renters. I also had no knowledge of any records showing evidence of lead paint at my Main Street house until AFTER your agent had submitted copies of my records to you and then Mr. Bosch and his assistant contacted me. I believe they led me on during that conversation knowing full well that at the time of the incident (report of lead paint) at the Main Street house, I did not own the property. I also explained to them right from the start that my husband had passed the year before this all started (the EPA landing at my doorstep), and that the rental properties had been his "job". Proof of this would be the fact that I have worked as a Para-Educator and then Substitute Teacher since 2000. Now do to health reasons I work for a telemarketing agency, and I still do not make enough money to pay my personal bills let alone pay off some offense that I DON'T FEEL I MADE.

After the EPA agent explained what he was looking for in my records and informed me of what should have been there and why, I not only remedied the oversight but also contact several landlords that had been friends with my husband. NOT a single one was aware of this law until I told them of it and gave them copies of the information given to me by the EPA Agent. Another reason that I do not feel I should be held liable for some law I was not aware of. If I had been the only dumb ass landlord not complying then maybe I would agree with you (I doubt it) but maybe. However, NONE of the other landlords I spoke with had ever heard of this and ALL of us comply with city regulations. So if anybody should be held liable for the defaults of the landlords shouldn't it be the entity that had the information but did not make the landlords in their jurisdiction aware of this? Also what has been done to make other poor saps like myself aware of this law? As far as I have seen NOTHING!! I have spoken to several more landlords, and when I bring up this law, not a single one has said oh yeah DUH who doesn't know about that.

In fact still not a single one knows what I am talking about. So what is the EPA doing (besides fining single mothers with a mountain of debt already) about educating the landlords before they go in and audit their records. It looked to me, from my experience with your agent, that he was having a ball KNOWING that he would not find those documents in my files because heck no one seems to know about this law except the EPA. I even went so far as to contact the city's attorney to ask him about it. He had to call me back because HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!!

So just incase I have not been clear in my statement, I AM NOT GUILTY OF THE CHARGES OR COMPLAINTS put upon my by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 located in Lenexa, Kansas or the agent sent to audit my files, or Raymond Bosch, or Jamie Green, or any other agent of the EPA in this matter. I want that to be clear before continuing on.

Approximately 3 months ago, I spoke with 2 or more individuals from the EPA after I had received yet another notice stating they still feel I am guilty of and should be able to pay the amount of \$8,500.00. I explained to them then that I do not have the means to pay \$10 to the EPA or anyone else either within 30 days, 60 days or 6 million days. I receive NO income from my rental properties. I do not own any of them free and clear. Most months there is not even enough money coming in to put aside money for the city taxes that must be paid twice a year. But heck if I was you I wouldn't believe me either. Who ever I had spoken with had told me to send shut off notices from utilities, which I did. Obviously that was not enough. If it counts for anything I am still struggling to pay utilities every month, losing my cell phone that I had owned for the past approximately 12 years is just one example (I still owe US Cellular money I can't afford to give them). However I am getting off tract here, When I spoke to whoever it was I spoke to I told them I would do the time in jail. Unfortunately (if it is decided I am guilty of this) I am afraid that is the only way you will get justice for your EPA department, because I have NO extra money to give you. I just don't have any. You could speak to my 17 year old, who is always complaining because I don't have the extra money to get her a homecoming dress (even at goodwill) much less buy any snacks for the house. I am not paying all of my utilities because I feel we need at least supper each night. I have nothing that I can sell to pay this money. I own a van and a truck both are on the verge of being repossessed by the bank as I am behind on payments for them. So once again the only option is to have me serve the time it would take to assure that this infraction is rectified.

So in conclusion, I DO NOT feel I have broken any laws EPA or otherwise. I feel that it has done no good sending you the documents you have requested. Do you even read them or do you just file them. From now on I am NOT responding to anymore of your threats. I am not sure what else can be done. Arrest me, or thank me for doing your job for you by informing every landlord I meet in regards to this obscure law. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO, I HAVE NO MONEY. IF I DID HAVE MONEY I WOULD USE IT TO PAY OFF MY PERSONAL DEBT INSTEAD OF WORKING OVERTIME ALL WEEK LONG AND STILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY. I

WOULD ALSO USE IT TO TAKE CARE OF MY OWN HEALTH PROBLEMS. I
CAN'T EVEN DO THAT.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty L Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "B" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Betty L Brown