

**Before the Chairman and Members  
Of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee**

**Hearing September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**On the Enbridge Oil Spill in  
Marshall, Michigan**

**Written Testimony**

**James Alan Lee**

**Marshall, Michigan**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I want to thank-you for allowing me to be here today. I hope my testimony will aid you in getting a better understanding of what our life is like outside the "Red Zone" and 200ft from the Kalamazoo River. I will be informing you about our first few days of the oil spill, the progression of my wife's illness, meetings we attended, information we received from various agencies and the feeling of abandonment from a Company that said they were at fault and they would make it right.

**Monday July 26<sup>th</sup> 2010:** I was at work for a normal Monday. I received a call from my now wife (Michelle Walters-Lee) at 10:40ish am. She was somewhat panicked. She said she could smell gas and she couldn't find where it was coming from. I left work and on my way home I have to go over a bridge on the Kalamazoo River. I had my window down and kept getting smells of what I thought was tar or asphalt. We live close to the road commission and thought they may be asphaltting or laying pea gravel down close by. They have done this in our area the past few years. When I got home I checked the water heater, furnace and the gas grill in the back yard. I did get smells of gas when I was in the back yard. At this point it wasn't the overwhelming smell we got later. I told Mickey (nickname for Michelle) that I would call consumers energy when I got back to work. I only live 3 miles from work. When I got back to work, I was informed from a co-worker that it is an oil spill. I called home to inform Mickey and she was watching the news about the spill. She said she could smell it in the house so she shut the windows and started the A/C. She just forgot about the windows in the basement. We had those open to get some fresh air the night before and save on our energy bill because they were getting high from the A/C. I got off work at 6 that night and came straight home. I couldn't believe how much stronger the smell was. We had dinner and decided to go down to the park in our neighborhood that is right on the river. The stench and the site of the oil in our river was a sick feeling. I took some pictures with my Iphone and still have them with area pin dropped. We came back and I had some yard work to do in the back yard. I looked up and saw our neighbor girl and her friend covered in a shiny black substance up to their upper thigh. I made a joke about Halloween is a long way off and they started saying it was oil. I came up to them and immediately could smell the stench. They started complaining that it was stinging and she yelled for her mom. I told her not to go into the house and that I would get something to help get it off. I got Mickey and told her to help them clean it off. We had some towels we were going to donate to the Humane Society so I went and got those and Mickey started cleaning off the oil. I have a picture of the girls on my digital camera. The friend of our neighbor ended up going to the Hospital with skin irritations (putting it lightly). When we went downstairs to go to bed, we could smell the oil and noticed the windows were open. I shut those (3 of them) and turned on our vent fan in bathroom and my fan in the bedroom. I remember lying in bed thinking how bad is this really going to be? Not knowing the damage of toxic chemicals in the air.

**Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup> 2010:** I left for work at my usual time (8:15ish am). I got outside and the smell of oil was very strong. I normally keep my windows open while driving but couldn't stand the smell. Once again I live 3 miles from work and when I got there I could smell it there. Even some of my co-workers commented on the smell. This day is more about my wife because I was at work until 6 again. She received a message on her Facebook account that some people wanted volunteers to help with the animals. That's all she needed to hear. Mickey has a genuine love for animals. She called and signed up

our whole family. She went down to the neighborhood park to see if any animals were in need of help. She witnessed a duck or goose, she couldn't tell which because it was covered in oil. She came home to call the 800 number to get it some help. A deputy sheriff was driving by and she took him down to the park to show him the animal. Mickey was back and forth to the park that morning and witnessed a muskrat lying there covered in oil. We found out later via news that it had died. Around 1pm Mickey started feeling sick. She had a headache and felt sick to her stomach. She called me and decided to lie down for awhile to see if it would get better. I got home from work a little after 6 and she felt like she was getting worse. I decided to call the 800 number Enbridge set up to ask them if it was safe to stay. The lady on the other end said she is not telling us to leave but she is not making us stay. I found that odd and side stepping the question. I informed her that my fiancé is feeling sick and she said to go get a hotel room and keep all the receipts and mail them in for reimbursement. I told her that we're are on a week to week life style and asked how long it would take for reimbursement. She wasn't sure. We checked on rooms and had to stay in Coldwater at the Hampton Inn which is 23 miles away. The hotel informed us that they didn't have any rooms available for Wednesday night. We had to make arrangements for Mickey's 80 year old grandmother to stay elsewhere. She is handicapped and a hotel would not be a good accommodation for her. **We packed up and left our home.**

**Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2010:** This morning we had to check out and drive back home. I got ready and left for work and Mickey and her 13 year old daughter Morgan (who I am adopting) had to stay home because of nowhere to go. Mickey decided to get some things done at the house even though she didn't feel up to it. She called me throughout the day and was noticing that she hasn't seen many bugs or birds. She has a butterfly garden that is 3 years old and in full bloom. She didn't see any butterflies that day. She enjoys watching them fly all over her garden. Not sure if that is because of oil spill or not but thought that was eerie seeing we watch them all the time. Mickey started feeling worse as the day went on and tried staying in the house but the stench was very strong. We turned our A/C off the night before because we were not going to be home. She said it smelled like a diesel truck parked in our house and revved its engine. We talked throughout the day and with money tight thought we will just tough it out for a night. I got in touch with Steve Sachs today and informed him of our situation. He got us in touch with an Enbridge official. I drove over to the donation site to meet him. We dropped off some old sheets and towels. I don't remember the name of the official, but he did say that a local church is donating money and up fronting money for people that can't afford to be reimbursed for a hotel room. I did call the church and the pastor came to my work and dropped off a letter stating to bill them for the room and gave us a \$100 gas card. I went from driving less than 6 miles round trip to work to around 50 miles. At this point, though we didn't like the oil spill, we did feel that Enbridge is living up to their end. We did incur some expenses while at our stay at the Hampton Inn in Coldwater Michigan. We called Enbridge and now they said that we can send in our receipts and it would be 2 to 3 days and they would mail out a check. We made copies of our receipts and mailed them out Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>. The amount of the receipts we mailed totaled up to \$225. Two weeks later it took 2 tries to the community center to get reimbursed. The first try Mickey went to the Battle Creek Center on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> and they were now saying that we live outside the Red Zone and more than 200ft from the Kalamazoo River. Mickey got upset with the guy filing her claim (his name is Dustin Lovely) and told him that Enbridge people informed us to send in receipts for reimbursement. He got on his computer and from our front door to

the Kalamazoo River is 708ft. He said we can file a claim but because they didn't tell us to leave we won't be reimbursed. Mickey told him that her next filing would be with our attorney. A lady by the name of Marcie instantly stepped in and took over. She cut a check for the receipts we had in hand and will check on the ones we mailed in. About 10 days later we didn't hear anything back so I decided to take charge and go to the Marshall Community Center. I spoke with a man named Sandy and informed him of the situation. He got on his computer and made sure they didn't send a check to us already. They cut me a check for the \$225 and wanted me to sign two separate receipt forms. He said he would give me a copy of the one form but the other one he couldn't. I informed him that I am a Finance Manager at a car dealership and I want a copy of anything I sign. I informed him that it is illegal to have me sign a document and not produce a copy for my records. I made notes of the form and read it to make sure it didn't say I am giving up my rights to sue later. I think it's odd now because I have been going through our notes and Mickey got a copy of the same exact form from her visit to the Battle Creek Community Center weeks earlier. It just seems their policies and procedures are depending on who you talk with.

**Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>:** I had to work as usual. Mickey was already not feeling well and I almost called in to take the day off work. Mickey tried to stay inside as much as possible with the A/C on. We booked our room for the next 5 nights. When I got home Mickey was in bed and again not feeling well. So I hurried up and got packed and off to Coldwater to stay at the Hampton Inn. We stayed at the hotel until Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. During our stay Mickey had symptoms the whole time. We thought being away from the smell would help her feel better. That was not the case. By the time I got there from work every day, Mickey already wanted to go to sleep because of not feeling well.

Now, I have set the tone for worse to come. Some parts of my writing will show some anger I felt during some unbelievable events to come. Mickey and I did attend the town hall meeting on August 2nd, which seemed to be more show and tell. We were looking more for answers to how safe are we? Mickey was feeling sick and we wanted answers. After the show and tell part was over I was exhausted and not looking forward to driving to Coldwater to stay at the hotel. We decided not to get in the long lines to talk to the individuals they set up. It was already late and we had to pick up the kids and head to Coldwater. During this meeting we did discover that the EPA took over the cleanup process. That was not a surprise to me because of the extent of the spill. I welcomed any agency that could help the process go faster. That night was the start of feeling uncomfortable with Enbridge. Just gut feelings I get and I told Mickey that something isn't right. Enbridge came out and said it was their fault. **I have a few quotes from Pat Daniel CEO and President for Enbridge, "I'm not going to be happy until everyone is back to normal and happy. We've been in this community for 41 years and we plan to be here 41 years from now, so absolutely I can give that commitment."** (see copy of article from channel 3 news website). Looking back at this quote and knowing what I know now, I feel this was just to make the community feel at ease if possible. This gut feeling will be proved later in my testimony. He also said **"We will pay for and relocate anyone that feels uncomfortable for as long as they need to be relocated"**. That is a huge quote and to take on that kind of responsibility speaks volumes. If it holds up? (see copy of article from Battle Creek Enquirer.com)

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, we had to call an ambulance for Mickey's grandmother. She couldn't breathe very well and her upper back hurt. I thought maybe a blood clot in the lungs because I had the same symptoms and it was clots in my lungs. The result of the visit was chronic lung disease. Her oxygen level was at 94%. Mickey brought her home later that day and called Enbridge. She told them about her grandmother and of her symptoms. They did agree to deliver an air purifier and delivered it later that night. I was surprised but my wife can be very stubborn and demanding at times. That would be the last time Enbridge tried to help.

The next few days Mickey's was feeling worse and extremely lethargic. Couldn't get any school work done because of the way she felt. By the way, she was taking classes to finish her degree online with Phoenix. She made the Dean's list in July. She is majoring in Hospital Administration for Ethics. I think that is ironic that she loves ethic courses. Since she has been sick, she had to take a medical leave and we don't know how that will end up.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> Mickey and I woke up at 7am. She told me she wasn't feeling right. She was weak, dizzy and confused. She stayed up until 1 that afternoon and was just felt exhausted and weak. She decided to lie down and take a nap. When she woke up her face was numb and drooping on the left side. It scared me to death. I thought she may have had a stroke. I asked her how she was feeling and she complained that she felt her face was swollen and she didn't have feeling on the left side of her face. I wasn't sure what to do. She felt tired and she stayed in bed the rest of the night. The next day her symptoms didn't go away. Her grandmother had an appointment with her doctor and Mickey called and asked if the doctor could see her as well. They go to the same office. Mickey was seen by Hope Howard the P.A. for Dr. Liston. Hope ordered blood tests and an inhaler because Mickey's pulse oxygen was at 94%. She stated that she suspected toxin poisoning and Bell's palsy and contacted Oaklawn Hospital for a list of toxins and issues related to poisoning. She also ordered a toxin screen which we haven't received back yet. I am finding that very odd seeing they said it would only take a week. Hope also prescribed steroids. As Mickey was leaving Hope received a fax from Oaklawn and told Mickey to go have her eyes checked and to go to the dentist to see if there is any problems with her teeth. The blood tests came back negative for any brain problems or any infections. Hope recommended that Mickey should come back and see Dr. Liston. On Aug 12<sup>th</sup> Mickey was still not good and got an appt. to see Dr Liston. Dr Liston stated she thought Mickey looked red and prescribed a stronger dosage of steroid and antiviral. All this time Mickey was hoping she would get better and that the medication would start helping or cure her. After a few more days of misery she decided to go see her Chiropractor Dr. Knight. He used a pro adjuster on her face and back. Mickey has had 3 lower back surgeries. After leaving the chiropractor's office her face and jaw was very sore. On Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Mickey went back to Dr Liston and was prescribed an antibiotic. The next day I took her to an optometrist in the Battle Creek Walmart. He spent almost an hour on her exam and said everything looks normal and no issues found. A few days later she went to her Dentist Dr. Heidenreich. He found no problems with her teeth, gums or sinus passage. We were told there is no diagnosis for toxin poisoning. We just have to test for everything else and rule them out. What's left is what it is. That same day her steroid dosage was upped again by Dr Liston. She was now taking 40mg a day. Dr Liston is telling us that being on steroids is not good to be on for a long period of time.

I have spent a little over 3 weeks now watching Mickey get worse and feeling helpless. I spent numerous hours on our laptop searching for answers to help. I researched Benzene and other toxic compounds. I did extensive searches on Bell's Palsy. The helpless feeling goes against everything I was brought up to be. I am a helper with disregard to myself.

**August 26<sup>th</sup> 2010:** I hear of the Meeting that Congressman Mark Schauer called at the Marshall Middle School. He was in attendance along with the EPA and Jim Rutherford from the Calhoun County Health Department. Mickey did not feel like going. I told her I wasn't going to miss this one. I was impressed with Congressman Schauer for his strive to keep Enbridge honest. The meeting opened with a power point presentation that had information I was unaware of. I know you have the facts and figures and probably more, but I just want to reiterate them to you.

- Published version of first warnings of low pressure in oil line 6B 5:58pm 7/25/2010
- 11:18 Consumer Energy field tech discovers oil spill 7/26/2010
- 1:33 Enbridge reports spill (over 2 hour limit) 07/26/2010
- Ban on contact with Creek/River 07/27/2010 **(shouldn't that have been on day 1, no warnings to stay away!**
- 13 hours of warnings going off at the Edmonton, Alberta pipeline control room
- Voluntary evacuation 07/29/2010
- Free evacuation lifted by Enbridge **(outside red zone or 200ft from river)** Enbridge decides to limit responsibility after all. 08/04/2010
- 140 defects on line 6B requiring repair within 180 days, Enbridge only fixed 26. Oct 2007
- 250 more defects requiring repair within 180 days on line 6B, Enbridge only fixed 35 June 2009
- 390 defects, 61 repairs(16%)= another state of emergency oil spill in my opinion
- 80 pipeline incidents since 2002. That's 10 a year. Almost 1 every month. Is this the norm for oil and pipeline companies?
- Fined \$2.4 million for violations in Minnesota resulting in 2 deaths. (DEATH? Should have been \$240 million.)
- Warned in January 2010 for disconnection of five corrosion control monitors on line 6B (WARNED? Is there any legislation to do more than warn? We need to feel safe living around this pipeline. Accountability and strict cooperation with rules and regulations.)
- They want to restart this thing up already? 15 days later? Stockholders and greed!

Needless to say, I kept looking at my wife who was not feeling good at all. I was appalled and enraged!!! She can't even smile at me. One side of her lips will form a smile and the other just stays put. Picture you are in our shoes. Middle class, nice home life in a quiet, safe neighborhood. Spending it with someone you love dearly. Picture it!!! Seems almost a perfect American setting. It just tears my heart out when I have to see her like this. You just wouldn't think that this family could take much more. I am stressed because I am the main support of this family. I feel I need to be at home taking care of my wife. Making sure all the little things around the house gets done. The kids are stressed worrying about their mom. Of course Mickey is scared of what could happen to her. She is so worried about Leukemia later down the short road. I told her not to do any more research because she couldn't take it anymore.

OK back to the meeting. I listened to the speakers they had that night and also to some of the questions posed to the panel. After a several questions were asked by the community in attendance, I raised my hand. A few more questions were asked then Mr. Schauer came to me. I stood up and introduced myself. I informed them that I had two questions. I had one for the EPA and one for Mr. Rutherford from the County Health Dept. The first "When was the first air readings done and why wasn't there any warnings right away to stay away." I felt that was important because my wife had no idea that we are breathing in deadly toxins. I let the whole room know that my girlfriend is sick and has Bell's palsy and neuro damage. The crowd gasped. I was talking very sternly. I actually heard the gasp from the community even though I was extremely angry and talking at a higher level. The second "Mr. Rutherford, I was here a few weeks back and posed a question about shallow wells in the Squaw Creek Neighborhood. When you found out about the wells you had no idea they were shallow because you had no records of them. You mentioned that Squaw Creek wasn't a concern for water because all the wells are over a 100 foot and below the clay shelf. When you found this out it was a big deal that night and you said you would come out and test that area. I'm here tonight saying you haven't been there yet and wondered if you are coming or not?" Mr. Rutherford said and I quote "Those wells are not safe without the oil spill." That pissed me off. Sorry but it did. Every time a house is sold in that neighborhood a home inspection is mandatory if there is going to be a mortgage on it. Why is the Health Department signing off that the wells are ok? Mr. Rutherford told me he would come out personally to take a water sample the next day. I let him know that was unnecessary for him to come out. I told him to just send someone. The previous meeting I am talking about with Mr. Rutherford was held at the Marshall Middle School as well. It was strictly for the residents of Squaw Creek. I apologize I do not have the exact date. The panel consisted of a local attorney, 2 real estate agents and a representative from the local credit union(Marshall Community). We were informed that night by the Credit Union Rep. that our neighborhood has been blacklisted and that there will be no loans for the Squaw Creek neighborhood. She also said that she talked with other lending institutions and they are not lending in our area as well. I have not checked since that night about loans in our area due to priorities to my wife. The real estate agents discussed our property values and said they couldn't give any figures to what our houses are worth. We did see a power point presentation showing it may be year 2023 before our values would be back to 100%. Not sure how those figures were composed, but scary to say the least.

Mickey sent an email to the EPA and asked if eating vegetables out of our garden is safe. Also, she asked if swimming in our pool was safe. The EPA responded by saying yes they are safe. After some of the events we no longer trusted the EPA or the Calhoun County Health Department, so Mickey called the poison control number and they said that it is not safe. We believe them now because some of the local farmers got a letter stating they can't sell their crops. I have drained our pool once I found that information.

The next few days Mickey started getting even worse. She was drooling when she drank or just from the saliva in her mouth. She could barely speak at times and mostly it was with a lisp. She has been experiencing tingling twitches on the left side of her face, arm and leg. On August 31<sup>st</sup> she called me panicking saying she thinks she just had a seizure. She was on the phone with her son's step mom when she couldn't hold the phone and she just locked up for 5 to 10 seconds. She had little feeling in her left hand, arm and the left side of her face. I left work in a rush and she called the doctor and they said if someone can't take you then they are calling an ambulance for her. I got there in 5 minutes. She couldn't move very fast and off to the emergency room. The emergency doctor saw her and immediately noticed that her face was not right. She had a Cat scan, MRI, blood tests and spinal tap. All came back negative. Dr. Yoder the neurologist came to see her early Wednesday Morning September 1<sup>st</sup>. I got there too late for him because I had to pack up some things for Mickey and didn't get there till 9. She was in the CCU. The neurologist told her that he thinks it is poisoning from the oil spill and wrote a script that she isn't allowed to stay in our home or be in the vicinity of the oil spill. He said he wants to take her on as a patient. She was not feeling well and we had a few visitors that day and some gave us some information. We were informed that if something was to happen to Mickey that I wouldn't be able to make any decisions for her or have any legal rights to Morgan her 13yr old. We talked about it for awhile and I asked her to marry me. She said yes!! I left and went to the County Building here in Marshall to get a Marriage license. I didn't have all Mickey's information so I came back to the hospital. A social worker was there because Mickey is the caretaker of her grandmother and she can't be there for her right now. We also talked about the hospital bill and she informed us that she is going to call Enbridge and inform them of the situation and to see if they would put Mickey's grandmother in Tender Care a local nursing home. She also asked them about putting us up somewhere if and when she gets out. **Enbridge informed her that we are outside the 200ft and the red zone so they won't help.** Again, they got me ticked. I called our attorney (Bill Mayhall) we hired toward the end of August. I Can't remember what date. He said he had an appointment with Enbridge Lawyers on Thursday and said he would talk with them and see what they would do. Well, Mickey's dad and some of her friends and I scrambled around making arrangements to get married in the chapel at the hospital at 8:30 that night. It definitely wasn't the setting we had talked about, but she was beautiful. Mickey got to wear a dress as long as one of the nurses was present. That was a good thing because at the end of the ceremony, Mickey started twitching again and she said it feels like something is pulling her to the left. I held her up and the nurse came over and took her back to her room. Everyone was kind of nervous.

Thursday morning....I'm a married man. Happily!!! Got a call from our attorney and Enbridge rescheduled the meeting for Friday at 2pm. Mickey was not feeling well and tired of not getting any answers on what to do or what the doctors are going to do. One of the nurses mentioned that they may send her to U of M Ann Arbor for further testing and see a toxicologist. My nerves are just shot. I can't take much more of not knowing what's going on. Is she going to get better? How am I going to pay for all the tests and hospital bill? Mickey is unemployed and was in school and she doesn't have health insurance. Mickey was getting frustrated. I grabbed the laptop and went straight to Congressman Mark Schauer's web site. This is a cut and paste from my original email:

Good Morning Mr Schauer,

My name is James Lee from Marshall. We got to meet last Thursday at the meeting at the Marshall Middle School last Thursday Aug 26th. I addressed the EPA and Mr Rutherford with the Calhoun County Health Dept. I was the one that my Fiance (now wife) has been diagnosed with Bells Palsy, which now has progressed further to her 7th cranial nerve and beyond. Since last Tuesday she has been hospitalized with nerve issues and possible seizures. The neurologist will not let her come home especially our home in Squaw Creek. He has wrote a script for that. She has been on max dosage of seizure medicine and steroids. They may transfer her to U of M Ann Arbor to see a toxicologist. The social worker here has contacted Enbridge to see if they would help out and get her somewhere to stay if and when she gets released. They of course said "no" because we are outside the infamous 200ft boundry. My opinion that is their collateral damage threshold. We have consulted an attorney! and he is holding a meeting with Enbridge Attorneys today at 2:00 to see if they have different feelings than their claim dept. If they are unwilling to help, then we are going full-court press. My wife and I have turned down several interview requests from Jared Werksma from channel 3. Well, I told my attorney that if they don't help we will request and interview and go public with our situation. I personally have gained alot of respect for you and your actions against this morrally questionable company. I would be honored to stand side by side with you against this company. They may have billions of dollars at their exposal but we will have the backing of the people and of course YOU. I would be more than happy to have you by our side as I am preparing to take on this monster for our rights and the rights of the people beyond the "red zone".

Just to let you know, because of her sickness, we had to get married here at the hospital in their chapel. also, just to let you know her Dr's do think it is neurological poisoning from the oil spill. We live 700 ft from the river and 1.5 miles(as a crow flies) or less from the site of the broken pipe. She has had a MRI, Catscan, numerous blood draws, Spinal tap, eye doctor exam, dental exam and all has come back negative for anything else that could cause this. Her latest test was an EEG that we haven't got results back yet.

We did receive information on air-test readings and one compound really stands out and that is N-Hexane. I have a copy of the readings and it said on July 30th that is was 5400 ppb. This toxin when exposed hits the periphrial and central nervous systems.

My wife was a healthy 36 year old woman. Other than 3 back surgueories(sp).

Please contact me if you can!!

Your friend and follower,

James Lee  
269-753-9915

I wrote this in a matter of minutes. Of course within a few seconds of hitting send I received an auto response stating it may take awhile to get back to me because of the amount of emails they get.

That is my testimony. Today Mickey is still feeling the symptoms and she is on her down dosing of steroids again and already getting worse.

The statements made by Pat Daniel have not held true. Please look at this company and create some type of legislation to halt them from restarting the oil line until it is free from **any** defects. They have only fixed approximately 16% of the defects on this line. I'm not sure levels of warnings or extensions on fixing or replacing defects won't result in another state of emergency.

**Also, we need a better warning system to innocent people that do not know how dangerous and hazardous these chemicals are. Our attorney has air readings and one of the toxins called N-Hexane was at 5400ppb. That reading was from July 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 days later. I did some research on this chemical and it attacks the peripheral and central nervous systems. We have contacted the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and they have started a file for her. They said either get a referral from your doctor or just come out and we will treat you. They said because she doesn't have insurance they may require up to \$1000 deposit. The rest of the bill will be set up on a payment plan if need be. We are not in the position to pay \$1000 for a deposit or have means to get her there. If we do come up with that, she will be alone with no family support. We need help and our community needs answers.**

**In closing, but no closure, we are now in a living situation that is very complicated. Since Mickey cannot come home, we are living at her parents house on Lake Nottawa in Tekonsha. It sounds great and is a beautiful atmosphere, but it is a 1 bedroom 1 bathroom loft with no privacy. We have 3 kids, 7 dogs between us, 1 bunny, 1 cat, Mickey's grandmother and her parents. We couldn't find a hotel room available and frankly couldn't afford to pay for an unknown stay. We are sleeping on an air mattress on the floor and the kids are sleeping on the couch and chairs. This a major inconvenience for us and to Mickey's parents. They go to bed much earlier than we do so we keep them up, and they get up at 4 in the morning to get ready for work and that wakes us up. I have been getting up at 4:15 every morning and not getting to sleep until 11 or 12 most nights. Last night I stayed up until 1:30am writing this testimony and was up again by 4:15. I am extremely exhausted and work 10.5 hrs a day in a stressful commissioned position.**

**James A. Lee**

**148 River Park Rd**

**Marshall, Michigan 49068**