

Dear Governor Haley,

I need you to please understand what it's like being a senior citizen living in South Carolina. I moved here four years ago from the north. I love the weather, and I bought a home in a lovely subdivision, close to stores so that I can walk and close to neighbors so that I feel safe. Since that time, the developers have built apartments and condos all around us, so that now it is not quite as safe. Cars flood our streets at all hours playing loud music, and my neighbors who were used to leaving a car on the driveway, locked, have suffered attacks of vandalism, stealing radios and breaking windows.

That's changing times, I suppose. As a new southerner, I was required to pay for things I'd never heard of before, such as wind and hail and flood insurance. I pay all my bills, on a fixed income, and they go up. The SCE&G bill is phenomenal, and I spent most of freezing February with little or no heat to try to keep my bill down. Prices go up.

The landowners of this subdivision are very rich. They charge yearly fees just for living in this area. Then there's the HOA. Mine is not made up of neighbors who want to help. Our HOA is housed in North Charleston, and yet, they send cars with cameras driving by homes. I've been fined for having trees that are too tall and bushes that surround my fence and give me privacy.

I was thrilled to find a home with 7 palm trees on the lot. Now, I felt like I was in South Carolina. I am being fined for those trees - my insurance company wants to raise my rates or dismiss me, since my trees are 'too close to the house and must be cut down or eliminated'. The HOA has fined me for letting my magnolia trees 'grow too tall'. They take pictures. The termite company, which charges a fortune (and I did not know about up north) will not 'guarantee' their work, because I have palm trees on my property. They took pictures. The HOA takes pictures.

There is no peace here. It's like living under Nazis - people taking pictures and demanding money (I don't have). Please, please get involved in this. People need to feel safe and not have to constantly have someone taking pictures of their homes and lives and then demanding money.

I won't sign this, since I might get a fine for bothering the Head of State.