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My name is Michael Link.
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I am 61 year old and disabled. I have a
very serious chronic and eventually fatal
lung disease (COPD and emphysema).
I welded for 4 different companies over
the years and the ~~conditions~~ working
conditions at especially 2 of these businesses
were absolutely horrid! On top of all that,
due to peer pressure, I got hooked on cigarette
when I was young and I struggle with
them to this very day! I started at Flexsteel
in 1978. I was layed off due to hard times
in 1979. I was hired by a tank manufacturer
called Watubo Tek in 1980. I was layed off
in 1982. I went back to Flexsteel wanting to
weld there because the money was better
welding. They couldn't give me a welding job
right away so I quit & went back to the tank
shop as a welder because the money was
better & I was married with a daughter.
Big mistake, I spent 13 years welding inside
these tanks, so smoky you couldn't see your
hand in front of your face. They closed down
& I lost my job. I went back to Flexsteel
welding production maintenance & short run
contracted John Deere & Caterpillar parts.

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Great job! I was glad to have it! In 2004 I lost that job. I was layed off due to jobs being ~~to~~ sent over seas to China due to corporate Greed! Then in 2005 I was hired to weld at Thermo-Fisher-Scientific. I welded for 3 years + I then transferred to a job at the same company building wire harnesses. I loved this job. I still miss it to this very day. I say this because once again due to filthy stinking corporate greed this business move overseas. The place still sets empty, 400 good jobs lost, with no consideration for the people of our country, the country that they live in. All they care about is money!

I have 3 pensions coming, 1. I cant draw until im 65, and even then its only \$100.00. 2 others I could now draw, but since I wasnt disabled from these 2 jobs I could only draw them at a 4% to 6% penalty for every year early before the age of 65. In the point im trying to make, is that due to these rich corporations + their greed I wasnt allowed to work 30 years at a business + be able to collect a full pension at this point in my life. So right now my only source of income is Social Security Disability + a small disability payment from my last job. I thought that these money hungry

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corporations were finally out of my life when I left the work force. Turns out, they have now moved into our back yard. Prior to 2017 the rent \$260.00 with water sewage + garbage pick up included in that \$260.00. Prior to this the rent would go up \$10.00 a month every 2 or 3 years. Since 2017, the rent has skyrocketed to \$414.00 a month. We are now paying for water sewage + garbage. My only income is Social Security Disability. We get a cost of living allowance once a year. Ever since this corporation took over, every raise I've received this corporation has taken from me! That + more. And no, it isn't wrong to want to make money, but they would still be making money, if our rent was \$300.00 a month with them paying for water sewage + garbage. The way it is now, its just like being held at gunpoint every month. This is disgusting unconscionable greed! I don't know how any one of them can go to sleep at night knowing how much hardship + fear they have put on all of us. They should be ashamed of themselves but they are not. That is why we are asking our elected officials to put in place laws on these awful corporations to compensate for what they lack in.

Character + kindness + humanity!

Just one more thing I need to mention. I'm in the donut-hole for my prescriptions for November & December of 2019. When I went to pick up my lung medication the price had doubled! I didn't take it. I called my doctor asking for samples for the month. I called different organizations asking for help for a month. Nobody helped me. Not a good move on my part. I have a small savings, but I need to pay for my funeral + you never know when this corporation is going to hit you with a \$500.00 water bill. You probably think that sounds far-fetched, but I do know of someone in the park being charged over \$400.00 for water. The bottom line is this, they want us to understand that there is nothing wrong with making money. We need them to understand that there is nothing wrong in us wanting to have a few extra dollars for something we really want, or more importantly for something that we really really need! Please help us!