

From: Barbara Ross <bross@exchangenet.net>
Subject: **Fwd: House Bill 2963**
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To: sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Barbara Ross
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Mr. Chair, members of the committee, my name is Barbara Ross, and I am here to testify in opposition to HB 2963.

As I understand it, the major push for this legislation is coming from Portland. In fact, Portland already has a side walk ordinance which regulates how persons can use that public space and requires that demonstrators or others only use a portion of the side walk and are not allowed to block citizens' use of the sidewalks.

If some groups in Portland want a modification of these regulations, they can propose changes and they can bring them to the city council where they can be debated by all sides. Portland has articulate groups who will stand up for the rights of the homeless or demonstrators and will seek to protect their free speech rights. The Business community and others will have full opportunity to point out problems with the current statute, and propose solutions.

I am concerned about the unintended consequences of that this legislation might have on other smaller towns across Oregon. In these communities city councils change frequently and their political leanings can change with each election. In these smaller cities, the council might respond to a small group of citizens and pass local regulations that would put unfortunate restrictions on the use of their sidewalks and might create unconstitutional limits on citizens' free speech rights. In these areas there might not be the organized groups that would point out the consequences of ordinances before they were passed.

I would urge the committee to listen to the objections of the ACLU and take the time to consider all the ramifications of passing HB 2963. Thank you for this opportunity to share my views with you.

Sincerely, Barbara Ross