

I am emailing my support for HB 4054. I live in the SE Lents neighborhood in Portland and we have been greatly impacted by the multi-jurisdictional issues surrounding homeless campers in our area. I think that over this past year, we have seen great improvement in how our city cleans the areas on City property. However, the city and the state have their own set of rules when it comes to cleaning up homeless camps. When camp are posted in one jurisdiction, often times the campers who choose not to take advantage of social services offered just move, across the street to the other jurisdiction. Our public areas and neighborhoods suffer because of this "game" and get no relief for weeks and weeks at a time.

I am enclosing a link from a Lents Livability Committee Town Hall this past April where some folks who were directly impacted had a chance to tell their stories. The link is set to start at the place in the meeting where the testimony from a few families start (even though the entire meeting is at this link too). These were immigrant families that were impacted, but the stories also are the same for others living near these camps on ODOT land in our city. Because of the length of time ODOT is required to wait to actually clean after posting an area, neighborhoods become infested with rodents and people are subjected to all kinds of criminal behavior, drug dealing, theft, bio-hazards, etc. One of the immigrant families in the video as recent as this past week, continues to deal with returning campers behind their house. The area behind their house is both City and ODOT - multi-jurisdictional. When both agencies can work together, cleanups go well. When they cannot schedule joint cleanups (which is the majority of the time) the cleanup only lasts a short while and it takes weeks before it gets done once reported.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG4LtzShMOw&feature=player_embedded&start=2865

I urge passage of HB 4054.

Respectfully,
Patricia Richey
Lents Neighborhood Resident
Portland, OR 97266