

Cornelius

Oregon's Family Town



February 12, 2020

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4001

Dear Rep. Keny-Guyer and Committee Members:

This letter is in opposition to HB 4001 and amendments as currently drafted. Oregon cities appreciate the House Speaker's interest and compassion in helping the homeless. Cornelius is part of a network of cities in Washington County that support the severe weather shelters that operate each winter. It is the compassionate thing to do, but HB 4001 does not solve the myriad of problems it might be intended to solve.

I had the wonderful opportunity to work, during the 1973 legislative session, for Oregon Tax Research. I was a recent college graduate in 1973 and saw the bi-partisan birth of Oregon's Land Use System that we enjoy today. As part of my job, I attended every work session and hearing on SB 100, which birthed citizen involvement through Goal 1 of our new land use system. HB 4001 would preempt local control, stifle resident input and take away a local community's ability to make its own smart decisions.

A homeless camp that has no restrictions or ability for the community to comment could likely create devastating circumstances for the local community. It wouldn't make sense to site an unrestricted homeless camp next to a day care, school or other sensitive facility. The camps could conceivably be placed next to a local business that might impact the business so negatively that they could be forced to close their doors.

Helping the homeless who are mentally ill, sick or unable to help themselves is compassionate and the right thing to do. Shoving unrestricted homeless camps into communities without providing sensible input, appropriate sites and proper safety mechanisms seems irresponsible and dangerous. Please do not support HB 4001 as it is currently proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Drake".

Rob Drake
City Manager