

To: House Committee on Judiciary

I'm writing to express my views on House Bill 2367 (called the "right to rest" law). I'm very concerned that this bill will result in a significant increase in people setting up tents in public parks and other public spaces. And as a result, many local residents won't feel comfortable using the parks. This bill also grants homeless people a right to privacy for their property, even if it's located in a public space. I'm very concerned this will condone and legitimize the massive amounts of litter and waste that can be found in some areas of my town, as well as larger cities, such as Portland. For a state that prides itself on being environmentally conscientious, I don't understand why littering, by anyone on public land, is condoned. Homelessness is a serious problem. But rather than create laws for the public use of land that apply to one group of people but not another group (I'm not allowed to camp in my city parks, for instance), I would prefer to see the state put more resources and energy into the truly addressing the issue. I know that takes far more work and is far more complicated. It seems easier for the state to simply pass laws that allow homeless to remain homeless and use public land in any way they'd like.

Sincerely,

Jill Perry
Bend, OR