

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature:

I have lived in Oregon since moving here full-time in 1996. For most of that time, I have lived on the edge of Portland and Beaverton, but in 2021 moved to close-in northeast Portland where I now live.

I'm historically a Democrat and I work at Intel. I have what I consider to be fairly "progressive" values in a lot of ways.

However, I'm submitting these written comments because as an Oregonian and a Democrat, think the implementation of Ballot Measure 110 has been a complete and total failure. It was sold to Oregonians by an out-of-state special interest group (the same one which funded the recent field trip to Portugal) which has as it's agenda legalization of ALL drugs.

While I harbor progressive values, I find that when the state of Oregon implements idealistic progressive policies with no meaningful input from an opposition party, the results are often sloppy at best but more often, completely impractical with no meaningful coordination between various parts of government around implementation.

Where I live in northeast Portland, it's very common for me to encounter someone who is experiencing some sort of mental illness episode, or is obviously under the influence of drugs, or both when I'm out walking in the neighborhood. I recently attended an event at the Schnitz which was drawing hundreds of people to the auditorium, and even with so many event-goers around, I saw three different people smoking some kind of substance off of tin foil in the two blocks between where I parked and the auditorium. Director Park was full of unstable seeming people, and so were the south park blocks across the street from the Schnitz.

We need drug enforcement resulting in search and confiscation of drugs, even if we don't incarcerate people. We need visible police presence, but also with the police able to take immediate action to remove drugs and stop immediate drug use. Every well-informed citizen of Portland knows how few citations the police actually write, and how few people have called the support hotline on the tickets, and since that was supposed to be the main diversion option, there is NO part of the Measure 110 implementation that could be viewed as a success.

So many of the laws and policies we have in place around this issue do not seem to be able to address the problems. If the legislature and Governor Kotek's administration are not up to the task of fixing the legislation and implementation of this law (and a lot of other laws) then I'm not sure who will do it.

Passing the buck and pointing fingers between the state, county, and city of Portland are not acceptable. We need leadership to bring the various state and county agencies and governments together to fix this.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING. FURTHER INACTION IS NOT AN OPTION. We need drugs out of the possession of drug users, and open public drug use with impunity to end.

Sincerely,

--Mark Wilkinson  
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