

Dear state lawmakers,

I have lived in downtown Portland for 15 years, and in Oregon for almost 30 years. Measure 110 has caused the quality of life for everyday citizens to take a drastic turn for the worse. I used to be proud of my neighborhood – it was lively, active, and a wonderful place to live. I even gave interviews about how wonderful it was, to visiting journalists from other countries. **NOW, because of Measure 110, my life now includes DAILY DOSES OF:**

- Seeing empty-eyed drug addicts gorked out against buildings, in my courtyard, and in their parked cars
- Running the gauntlet of drug addicts outside grocery stores like Safeway and Rite-Aid
- Walking through streets that are constantly and continuously filled with the detritus and discards of the drug addicted, including trash, feces, needles, foil and more
- Experiencing a multi-fold increase in the number of break-ins into our garage and storage areas
- Seeing drug-addicted persons defecating and urinating in broad daylight
- Seeing bodies prone on the sidewalk, with no indication of life or death
- Seeing drug-dealing occurring in the sidewalk encampments
- Spending endless hours trying to get emergency services and property owners to deal with the addicts
- Experiencing fear when I have to face off with gorked-out addicts on my property and on the streets
- Commiserating with neighbors who have been traumatized by being assaulted by drug addicts

Worst of all, I am losing friends and neighbors who have gotten fed up with the poor quality of life, and who have moved out of state or to the suburbs! Downtown has lost its luster and feels like a ghost-town full of the drug-fueled zombies. It's impossible to escape the blight caused by Measure 110, wherever you go in downtown. While this is a personal loss for me, it also means a loss of tax revenue for you, and also less business for the companies trying to survive in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Before it's too late, please take responsibility for this error and admit that Measure 110 was a mistake. Note that I don't care what part of it was a mistake – the timing, the implementation, etc. - just admit that it was a mistake, pure and simple. Please IMMEDIATELY redress the situation by doing the following:

- Make possession of lethal drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and meth a crime again.
- Give law enforcement tools to steer addicts toward mandatory treatment and away from jail.
- Make better use of facilities such as Bybee Lakes Hope Center – support programs like theirs that WORK.
- Prioritize diversion programs that put drug users on the path to recovery and a clean criminal record.
- Increase penalties for drug dealing and public drug use.

- Take legislative action in February – ***people are dying each day under Measure 110.***

I am very worried that Portland will not fix this problem caused by Measure 110, in my lifetime. I am close to giving up hope. Please prove me wrong and turn this situation around quickly!

PS I have been picking up trash in my neighborhood, twice a week, for three years. I walk daily (I don't even have a car). Therefore my assessment should hold weight – it's from a long-term, close-up view of life in downtown Portland.

Sincerely,
Linda Witt