



Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed and beyond through, education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship.

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

Umpqua Watersheds, a nonprofit environmental conservation organization based in Roseburg, is writing to express our strong support for SB 847-5, which would provide limited liability protections for rural communities in Oregon. We strongly believe that this bill is particularly important for its potential impact on addressing homelessness in our state through the creation of urban campgrounds.

As an organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our natural environment, we recognize the critical role that urban campgrounds can play in supporting homeless individuals and reducing the negative impact of homelessness on our ecosystems. Homeless encampments can have a significant impact on natural habitats, leading to the destruction of fragile ecosystems and the pollution of our waterways.

Urban campgrounds provide a safer and more regulated space for homeless individuals to camp, with access to basic amenities like restrooms and trash disposal. By providing this space, we can help to reduce the impact of homelessness on our environment and promote the long-term health of our natural resources.

We urge you to support this bill and to continue your efforts to promote environmental conservation, support rural communities, and address the issue of homelessness in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kasey Hovik". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kasey Hovik
Executive Director
Umpqua Watersheds
