

Submitter: Cole Baker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Please do not legalize camping in public. It degrades public safety, inappropriately burdens civic and social infrastructure, and completely sidesteps actual accountability for the cities, counties, and state. Tent living in Oregon's cities is a threat to the safety and comfort of the people very bill this bill seeks to support and accommodate. We are not lacking in shelter beds and accommodations. Those in tents are often in them due to an unwillingness to accept services, due to contingencies like not possessing drugs or weapons. Until our quit self-disguising their squeamishness and incompetence as some sort of blithe empathy towards the vulnerable, life in this state will continue to degrade.

In the event that this bill does pass, I recommend the authors of it celebrate with their constituents by pitching a tent on the corner of Southwest 4th Avenue and Washington Street in Portland Oregon. Concern for a minority cannot manifest as contempt for the majority.