

Submitter: Rob Vaughn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Further protection of illegal camping will only make the issues worse. Most of the people living in tents currently need to be encouraged to seek help and shelter, not protected indefinitely from ever having to try to get back on their feet. Portland is already overrun by tent camps, mainly occupied by people with drug, alcohol and/or mental health issues. Most of them resort to crime for food and other necessities as well as to feed addictions. They should not be enabled to continue this lifestyle by laws like this.

I have lived with an income under the poverty level for the last two years. My car has been broken into three times in the last six months. My car insurance has gone up almost 20% in the last six months and after the latest break-in I will no longer be able to get coverage for broken glass. I am literally being pushed towards homelessness myself by being preyed on by the current camp population. The Oregon House needs to think of folks like myself living on thin margins but are long-time residents, tax payers, etc.

Lastly, bills like this only encourage more homeless people to move to Portland and Oregon, as word of free tents, food, clothes plus laws protecting them while decriminalizing their activities spreads. Do we really want all the homeless from other states migrating here?

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3501. Sincerely, Rob Vaughn