

Submitter: Marnie Loomis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I have a great deal of empathy for people who are experiencing homelessness and I am opposed to this legislation.

This legislation is the opposite of helpful. The drug problem is too big, the crime problem is growing too quickly. Public camping is a side effect of these other problems. If we make public camping legal, it is a form of enabling. We are lacking actual solutions. This is not one.

Our cities can't go about their normal business with campers set up in the public spaces.

I'm all for safe spaces for people to rest and take cover, but this legislation isn't the way. This is opening up our public spaces to being exploited.

Public space is a collective asset that is meant to be shared by all of us. Our public spaces serve a mental and physical health function within our community. As soon as someone claims a public space for themselves, it stops being public.

Please keep our public spaces public, safe, and accessible to everyone.