

Submitter: Heidi Herington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Allowing people to continually camp in public spaces impedes our rights as citizens to safely walk among our streets and access retail and services. If Portland is to bounce back, it needs to draw in businesses that will thrive and they won't be able to with tents stacked along the streets. Additionally, it will draw people from other states if we become a safe haven for extended camping on the streets with no repercussions. The current state of camping has already negatively affected business to the point that they are shutting down and leaving. This bill would have a disastrous effect on our city's recovery and economy. While I am sympathetic to those experiencing homelessness, the rights of tax-paying citizens has to take priority over those who are unable to contribute at this time. That's fair and logical. Please do not pass this bill.