

Submitter: Paul Russel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Portland and the rest of Oregon has a homelessness crisis. Said crisis is not just the homeless themselves, but rather a crisis that affects the entire population. Homeless tent camping in public spaces has an associated major garbage problem due to their locations and lack of garbage collection. Many camps actively accumulate large quantities of scrap metal, broken furniture, and general waste. I am very concerned this bill will lead to even more accumulation of garbage in our city's sidewalks, forests, parks, and freeways. The impact on other users (besides the homeless) of public spaces MUST be considered; including the disabled, taxpaying park patrons, local businesses, etc. Vitality of our area relies on the public being comfortable with traversing and using our public spaces. There are many areas that most of us are no longer comfortable traversing due to trash, dangerous mental unstable people, used needles, etc. I am very concerned this bill will lead to further deterioration of our public spaces.