

Submitter: Brian Bennett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This is by far the dumbest idea conceived yet to manage homeless people. Local governments spend millions cleaning up the mess left behind from illegal campers. Plenty of evidence exists these people do not clean up after themselves and pollute the environment with trash, chemical and biological waste, even when provided proper facilities. Their presence also attracts a criminal element and destabilizes neighborhoods. When the general public feels the police won't enforce problems it will result in more violence with homeless people, putting everyone at risk.

The term public space opens thousands of locations to what would be considered illegal camping right now. Parking lots, easements, parks, public right away, etc. This bill would render local law enforcement pointless to enforce other laws and just encourages more lawlessness. Instead all they have to do is feel harassed and it will cost agencies thousands in legal fees.

Instead of taking away rights from honest tax paying citizens to keep these people from living on a sidewalk in front of their house, try passing laws that discourage them and hold them accountable. All this bill will do is continue the history of Oregon politicians enabling people who have no desire to clean their lives up. Misguided ideas like this are accelerating the exodus of people from Oregon to other states. If Oregon wants to attract good citizens and businesses that employ good tax paying citizens. Don't pass laws that discourages those entities from moving here.