

Submitter: Heidi Geschwill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I strongly OPPOSE HB3501. My family has personal experience with squatters and trespassers on our property. The police cannot and will not help us, and it's getting to be more frequent. In fact, the Gervais police are relieved when a druggie leaves their city and ends up a rural menace. The idea that squatters will be given more permission to squat is appalling. The people we have had to run off are drug crazed zombies. They get militant and argue about being told to leave. This is happening on private property where they have NO permission. Imagine what will happen to our state when they have permission? These creatures don't care if it's public property or private property.

Have any of the legislators that support HB3501 witnessed the mountains of garbage that the homeless accumulate within days of starting a camp? How would HB3501 attempt to address the filth and waste? A huge new tax to send a maid after the bums? There is a wrecker crew in Central Oregon, and out of goodness, they spend enormous amounts of time and money cleaning up squatter camps on Bureau of Land Management land. I don't believe there are enough people in Oregon who will be happy to volunteer to clean up the putrefaction of the dispersed squatting HB3501 will allow.

The term that people are 'experiencing' homelessness is misleading. I might experience a hail storm, something that is out of my control. If I become homeless, that is my fault, not some circumstance I would happen to experience. There are some truly down and out characters on the streets. Any homeless veteran is a national shame. The mentally ill used to be treated, but Oregon has ended that treatment. With my own eyes the only homeless I have seen are completely wasted on drugs. One regular offender in my town of Woodburn is a criminal who breaks into homes. It's unsettling when I see his Jeep back in the neighborhood. Oregon has created the drug problem. The answer would be to correct the drug problem, not allow these people who have cooked their brains to disperse onto public property and frighten people.

I could continue, but you get the idea. It's scary enough the way it is. I beg you not to extend 'rights' for a group of society that does not deserve more territory to destroy. They will not appreciate or caretake the property. They will assuredly cause more Oregonians to leave the state, and create and even bigger terror for those of us defending private property. Thank you for considering.