

Submitter: Lyle Hildebrandt
On Behalf Of: 78 percent of Portlanders
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I'm giving testimony to urge you to oppose HB 3501 which would allow tent cities and homeless camping to be permanently and forever legal in cities across Oregon.

I implore you to listen to our city: An overwhelming majority of 78% of residents believe that local officials should "require those camping on city sidewalks, streets and public areas to sleep only in shelters or authorized camping areas." (DHM Research, November 2022).

People and businesses are vacating Portland at record numbers. Tax dollars, our means for support, are vanishing at record rates. If we have any chance of helping those struggling with mental health and addiction—the major reason people are on the street—we cannot forsake everyone else to continue enabling this behavior.

Do what's right for Portland. For Oregon. For our residents, our families, or businesses—and for those experiencing homelessness. We need to end inhumane, dangerous public camping – not enabling it.