

Submitter: Robert Hart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Helfrich,

Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB 3501. This proposed bill will not solve the homeless crisis in Oregon but will only exacerbate the problems by giving carte blanche to homeless persons to occupy and control public spaces with an expectation of a reward of a court settlement if they are confronted. This bill also removes local government control by prohibiting citations or arrest to clear any area of homeless occupation of public spaces and even requires that an appropriate alternative space be provided if there is a limited access or fee based place such as a fairground. Allowing occupancy of RV units without local government approval will also create unregulated RV parks with no sanitation or water available.

I am a land use planner with over 20 years as a county planner and over 25 years as a private planning consultant. This proposal makes a mockery of the Oregon Land Use program to allow tent cities and prohibits or restricts housing of private land to the extent that we are more than 140,000 housing units below what is needed. The costs for development are excessive and opportunities limited by constricted urban growth boundaries. All the while the homeless are allowed and even encouraged to occupy space that is not planned or designed for residential use. The health concerns alone are sufficient to take drastic measures to stop the tent cities that are occupied by homeless persons that in many cases refuse housing because there are policies and standards for conduct for which they refuse to conform.

There is a housing crisis but this bill will not solve the problem and likely will make it worse with the thought of a \$1000 reward for remaining homeless and refusing to conform to the basic expectations of a civilized society.

I implore you to oppose this bill.

Bob Hart

Land Use Consultant

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