

Submitter: Barbara Beath

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I do not support House Bill 3501. Our policies and lack of plans and resources in the support of unsheltered people have not worked to date. We've watched these problems grow even before COVID. If we default to allowing camping/living/sleeping on public land, that may slow efforts to find real solutions to this crisis. In addition, all solutions and policies need to be workable for all portions of the population of Oregon. I would worry that allowing camping and living on public land would, for city dwellers, make access to parks, transportation centers, sidewalks more difficult than it already is. I would worry about safe and direct access for children to and from schools as well as any camping/living on public school property. Public utilities need direct, unimpeded access and that might be impacted as might grazing rights on public lands. Instead of codifying and supporting an already unsustainable response to the needs of unsheltered people, I would urge the legislature to work with various counties and cities around the state for more sustainable plans and projects.