

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3501 which would allow tent cities and homeless camping to be permanently and forever legal in cities across Oregon. I would also like a justification for a public hearing about a bill that never made it out of committee

This measure is an example of legislative proposals that demonstrate in incredibly stark terms the flawed and misguided approach to homeless policy in Oregon. We need to be ending inhumane, dangerous public camping – not enabling it.

I have lived in NE Portland for 43 years. I raised my two sons here. I mention this, because I have perspective on the terrible downward spiral this city has taken in the past 2-3 years. It is overrun by homeless camps and drug addicts! This, along with the lack of prosecution of violent crimes and property crimes, is destroying our city! Company after company are closing their doors or moving elsewhere because of the complete inability of our state and local government to deal with these problems! I cannot describe the absolute rage I felt when I learned that the Nike Outlet Store on MLK and the REI in the Pearly district were closing their doors because of these problems. Salt and Straw is relocating their business for the same reasons. This city cannot afford to lose more jobs!

Our city and state officials, in an apparent attempt to out-do one another at being perfectly politically correctly empathetic, have lost all perspective on this issue. The complete disregard of the rights and needs of responsible citizens is infuriating. But more importantly, they are completely incapable of solving problems that matter to most Oregonians. I consider myself to be a progressive. I add that comment because I fear that all of you “progressive” politicians will be tempted to blow off my comments because of what will be viewed as having a conservative political background.

When I heard about HB3501 and SB 603 I was incredulous! What parallel reality do our state legislators live in? Wake up....our city is dying!