

Submitter: ben b

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I skew pretty far left. I'm sympathetic to the plight that the homeless face. However, I wish to live in a clean city (I can't believe I actually have to write that).

I feel that all individuals, including myself, have the fundamental right to access safe and unobstructed public spaces. While I support designated areas for the homeless that are regularly maintained and cleaned, the proliferation of tents, tarps, and other structures on sidewalks and in public spaces is untenable, and undermines the purpose for which these spaces were created. Such structures obstruct sidewalks, create unsanitary conditions, and pose a risk to public health and safety.

The homeless camping (or resting) situation in our city has become intolerable. We must be doing more to enforce prohibition of camping/resting in public places instead of catering to it. This bill does not allow for that. It is my sincere hope that we can restore Portland to the beautiful and welcoming city it once was.