

Submitter: C W

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Regarding HB 3051, I would like to offer my strenuous opposition. It has become "chic", if you will, to grant all manner of public accommodation to those who are homeless. We even call them "the unhoused", as if they simply couldn't find an apartment to rent. What's happening with this growing tolerance of vagrancy is that the homeless folks...and their unclean/irresponsible practices...have now taken over the public places that TAXPAYERS support. The homeless folks get all the benefit, with none of the cost.

In Grants Pass, our car club has sponsored a charity car show for 25+ years. All proceeds of our show are distributed among 3 charities each year. Each applicant charity must make a presentation to our car club, then the club members vote on the charities they want to support that year. We have always rented Riverside Park for our car show. Hundreds of car owners come to Grants Pass (usually 300+ participant cars), filling our hotel rooms and dining in our restaurants. The venue is a big draw, because it is so beautiful. This year, because law enforcement is not allowed to move the vagrants out of the park, even for one day, we are being forced to move our car show to the fairgrounds...no trees, no grass, no river. I'm not sure that many folks will want to sit on a dirt parking lot for a car show, so there will likely be a trickle-down loss to the hotels, the restaurants AND the charitable proceeds. It is time to say "Enough!" to this continual accommodation of those who, in no way, contribute to the betterment of any community. These people lack more than housing; they lack responsibility and the desire to be productive members of the community, preferring, instead, to take all the free food/clothing/handouts and thumbing their noses at those of us who pay for all of it. I urge you to firmly veto this bill.