

Submitter: David Carlson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

In 1981 the classic film, "Escape From New York" starring Kurt Russel was released. It featured the New York City as a husk of itself that had been turned into a prison of sorts where criminals were sentenced to spend their lives in a quasi post-apocalyptic wasteland. Famed director John Carpenter directed both the original film and a 1996 sequel, "Escape from LA." in which the undesirables of the country were confined to Los Angeles, which had been reduced to an island by an earthquake and flood. Both films are underrated classics.

For too long we have waited for a second sequel to supplement the original two films. This is primarily for a lack of a decent place to film them that doesn't cost a huge amount to construct. And while CGI is much better than it used to be, nothing compares to honest to goodness locations rather than computer generated fantasy backdrops. But now, with the proven success of Measure 110 we're half-way to having the set that can be used to film the third installment of the "Escape from..." films. By passing HB 3501 the legislature would double down on Measure 110's success and get us over that finish line, virtually guaranteeing Oregon's suitability as an appropriate place to film "Escape from Oregon" with a minimal amount of additional cost to Hollywood producers. This would undoubtedly give Oregon a really good shot at being the shooting gallery of choice (for shooting movies and tv shows, obviously) and we could attract many people to Oregon from all over the country to serve as extras for not only the Escape from Oregon sequel, but also for a whole host of additional films that would require apocalyptic scenery and hordes of mindless zombies/addicts.

In addition, I have no doubt that we would receive multiple accolades from virtually every other state in the Union as they would finally have a place to refer their homeless, drug addicted and mentally ill individuals, as well as any illegal immigrants that a state wanted to send our direction. This would take a tremendous amount of pressure off of places like Chicago, New York City and the policy makers of the federal government as Texas, Florida, and California, among others, could send people to Oregon with the absolute comfort of knowing that there's a place for these folks in our medians, on/off ramps, city streets, parks, campuses, and parking lots. We could be the containment area for the dregs of our society, thereby concentrating as much poverty, misery and lawlessness as possible into one place for the betterment of the rest of the country. The applause from the other states in the Union would be deafening.

Let's get a move on Oregon! I urge you to pass HB 3501 as quickly as possible. In

fact, you may want to consider doubling down on this and providing a truly comprehensive right to rest law that allows individuals the right to use not just the sidewalks and medians, but also the actual middle of the street as well as other people's private property for ANY purpose, including resting, camping, urinating, defecating, dumping garbage, medical waste disposal, establishing meth labs, etc. After all, what is private property but a revocable license from the government to monopolize a specific area? And that's simply unfair to those who weren't hard enough working to obtain that license on their own. It's through no fault of their own, obviously, and it's high time we recognized that. Perhaps next legislative session we can get to that. Until then, pass HB 3501 as quickly as possible so that we can decrease property values statewide and provide better, more affordable housing and filming locations for all Oregonians and everyone else who wants to wander into our (formerly) fair State.