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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Each day, our team witnesses the individuals living literally “in the street” and they have one goal . . . Obtain another high. I personally, have two friends out there somewhere and they use their Oregon provided money to buy pallets of water and then they dump-out the water to obtain recycling money to buy drugs. I have witnessed a couple in a mini van passed-out with their mouths open while the van was running and had the lights on. They were in such need of the high, they did not bother to turn off the van. We also see these addicts driving while high at incredible speeds and nearly hitting cyclists and other vehicles. Some get agitated and try to remove trees. I have hundreds of photos of the mess and destruction that addiction causes.

Portland is enabling these individuals with addiction to slowly commit suicide. I went through a year of cancer treatment and yet, I have to risk my health each day by working in Portland. I have taken photos of the addicts cooking chemicals on the sidewalks. I try to park far away from them and watch-out for smoke. I do not want our team or myself to accidentally inhale their chemicals. Where are our rights to a clean and safe work environment? The addicts are often times combative and I now carry mace and a taser due to an addict grabbing my arm and threatening me. Our team continually has screws and nails in their tires from the addicts being allowed to build shacks on wheels everywhere. By allowing these people with addiction to continue their destructive behavior, our city is slowly becoming dysfunctional. We own our building, so it is difficult to move our business, but we would if we could. The feces, garbage and vandalism is continuous and we have to absorb the costs everyday. Our clients are moving out of Oregon, so we are concerned for the future of our 60+ year old Portland business. Portland used to be beautiful and safe, but when you have no consequences for certain peoples' behavior, how do you expect them to learn or change their behavior. As long as the addicts are enabled, they will continue to destroy Portland and themselves.