



OLAWA'S Testimony in Opposition to HB 4001A

My name is Paul Lipscomb, I live just outside of Sisters Oregon, and I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. OLAWA is a 501c3 corporation that educates and advocates for sound public policy related to land use and water use issues in Central Oregon and throughout the State of Oregon. I have been authorized by the Board of Directors of OLAWA to submit this letter on its behalf.

We strongly oppose the HB 4001A for the following reasons:

First, although this bill seems to be a very well-intentioned attempt to ameliorate the plight of homeless people in Oregon, it would establish a very bad legislative precedent by steamrolling all state and local land use laws in the process. Both preserving our land use protections and assisting the homeless are important legislative goals and policies. But one need not and should not be shoved aside in the process of pursuing the other. This bill would present our legislators with

a false choice of voting to support our land use laws over the needs of the homeless, or voting to support the homeless by setting aside all state and local land use laws and regulations.

We believe that the legislature can support the needs of the homeless without damaging our entire slate of land use protections in the process. HB 4015, which is also before this body for review and approval this afternoon, represents just one immediate example of how to appropriately balance two important legislative goals and proposed policies without damaging either of them.

Second, this bill goes even further by removing both all local city and county governmental entities and all private citizens from having any input into the process while it is underway. And it also removes all the protections of any appeal to LUBA for a prompt review by land use law experts.

Simply put, in its present form, HB 4001A is disrespectful of our local city and county governments, and it is an undemocratic disenfranchisement of our public. This is not now, and it should never become, the Oregon way.

In short, this bill represents a leap much too far in the service of one well-intentioned legislative goal.

Thank you for giving our concerns your attention when considering this bill.

Paul Lipscomb

Vice President of OLAWA

PO Box 579

Sisters, OR 97759