

Although I believe resources need to be devoted to providing support and housing for houseless people, I do not support this bill as written.

The reason relates to areas included in the definition of "public space". My prime concern is that parks are included. If encampments of houseless people are allowed to remain in parks, parks will lose their essence of peacefulness and safety; a place members of the local community can gather, children are safe to play...

I also have concern regarding the inclusion of public transportation, parking lots (that are in use) and sidewalks. Use by other people in the community could be impeded if large quantities of homeless people set up camp in areas like this. These areas exist for a specific purpose, the use of all, and that should not change.

I fully support development of housing options such as those created along SE Water Street on lots that were vacant and unused previously. Inclusion of resources such as portable toilets, trash pick up... are absolutely necessary in any area where homeless are permitted to set up camp.

Thank you for your time and efforts in relation to developing resources for those without homes.