

Rural Liability Protection for Safe Resting Places: SB 847-5

As Oregon continues to experience a housing and homelessness crisis, recent state investments in shelter and services have yet to reach all communities in the state, and rural areas will continue to be significantly underfunded. Cities and counties located in the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care have historically received less federal and state investment and measures 5 and 50 have suppressed local property tax revenues for decades.

With little or no shelter facilities and funding, rural communities would like to establish safe resting places and urban campgrounds to support their unhoused residents with basic amenities, but they face a **common barrier**:

Rural cities and counties do not have the capacity to withstand the legal challenges associated with offering designated safe resting places or campgrounds with basic services.

By limiting liability, SB 847-5 encourages rural communities to designate safe resting places and campgrounds while providing unhoused residents:

- Reliable access to a space of a certain size within which they can erect a tent or park a vehicle and keep their belongings, away from hazardous areas, sensitive environmental lands, and high traffic neighborhoods or right of way.
- Basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and waste management services.
- Better access to emergency services



Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney County
Serving South Eastern Oregon