



# CITY OF PENDLETON

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Oregon State Legislature

RE: Resources for Rural Communities to Address Homelessness

The City of Pendleton finds itself overwhelmed by the growth in homelessness and is looking for solutions. Today we have been made aware of the proposed bills currently being considered by the House and Senate. These bills (Amendment -5 to SB 847-1, and a similar bill being introduced in the House which has not yet been assigned a bill number) will remove at least one major barrier by limiting liability associated with designated safe resting places or urban campgrounds located in communities within Balance of State/Rural Oregon Balance of State Continuum of Care.

Before adopting our camping ordinance, which allows camping on publicly owned property, we considered a specified location for these camps to be located. Because of liability, we were advised to not consider this option. As a result, we are now faced with multiple illegal camps and scattered locations which put the homeless in an unsafe environment. Without appropriate facilities, they are exposed to unclean sanitary conditions. This also creates unsafe conditions for our employees or contractors who are needed to clean up these sites.

The passage of this legislation would give the Cities options as we work toward solutions to this crisis.

We ask for your support for this legislation.

Robb Corbett  
City Manager

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