

NEWPORT

169 SW COAST HWY
NEWPORT, OREGON 97365

COAST GUARD CITY, USA



OREGON

www.newportoregon.gov

MOMBETSU, JAPAN, SISTER CITY

March 8, 2023

Senator Dick Anderson
900 Court Street NE S-303
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 847.5

Dear Senator Anderson:

On Monday, March 6, the Newport City Council voted unanimously to support an amendment to Senate Bill 847, an amendment limiting liability thereby encouraging rural communities to designate safe resting places for unhoused residents. The City of Newport has faced challenges trying to provide locations for car camping due to liability issues. Due to litigation impacting other governmental entities, during the City's last insurance renewal, the City was assessed a significant additional charge for liability coverage for a municipal parking lot used for car camping. The City was planning to enter into a contract with a local non-profit agency, Grace Wins Haven, to oversee that lot. As a small non-profit, Grace Wins Haven had difficulty securing liability coverage for this municipal parking lot.

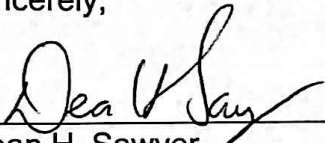
Small rural communities have limited resources in which to meet these growing challenges to effectively address homelessness. It is very disheartening for rural communities trying to address homelessness in a constructive manner to face further unanticipated challenges caused by significant liability concerns. The proposed amendment to Senate Bill 847 will help eliminate one of many hurdles for local government trying to address these critical issues.

For smaller rural communities, it is important to provide liability protection for safe resting places. Amending Senate Bill 847 to meet the minimal requirements would enable local government to afford liability protection for these much-needed places for the unhoused community. Please consider this amendment to Senate Bill 847.

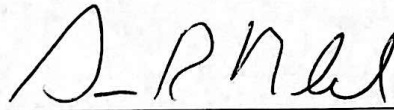
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Sincerely,



Dean H. Sawyer
Mayor, City of Newport, Oregon



Spencer Nebel
City Manager, City of Newport, Oregon

cc: Jan Kaplan, Council President
Cynthia Jacobi, Councilor
Beatriz Botello, Councilor
Dietmar Goebel, Councilor
CM Hall, Councilor
Ryan Parke, Councilor

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