

Submitter: Tim H

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This legislation is severely misguided. Two tents have gone up in flames on my block in the same week. They weren't set on fire by harassers, but rather set on fire by their occupants. Making it more difficult for cities to clean up safety hazards in public right-of-way is only going to exacerbate the safety hazards and livability issues. Piling on additional protections for those occupying and destroying public spaces does not solve the issues. It just makes livability worse for the vast majority of your constituents who don't want an open-air chop shop set up in the street in front of their house. This legislation would just embolden and protect the folks occupying public right space at the end of my block who stole my catalytic converter, the ones who broke into my garden shed, the ones who steal the packages from my neighbor's porch, the ones who dump needles on the sidewalk that my 4-year-old has to step over on the way to preschool, the ones who block sidewalks with their tents that become so overrun with trash that they eventually catch on fire.

We don't need the additional roadblocks to solutions that this legislation would put in place. We need real solutions to get people off the street in the first place, to get those who are willing into housing and those who are unwilling into institutions, to get repeat criminals off the streets, and to restore livability in Oregon. Further entrenching the rights of bad actors to live outside of the social contract and victimize the rest of us isn't compassionate, it's just how you drive livability in Oregon into the toilet.