

Submitter: Tony Fields

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I oppose this bill in its entirety. Empathy for those experiencing homelessness and drug addiction is one thing, but choosing to further enable bad behavior by granting de facto ownership rights to public spaces (Section 5, item b) is unconscionable. How many more businesses will have to close before our elected officials finally recognize that honest, law-abiding and tax-paying members of society should be protected from the inevitable crime and environmental damage that the homeless camps foster? If we really wanted to help the folks experiencing homelessness, we'd focus on providing more addiction and mental health support while aggressively prosecuting those who engage in criminal behavior.