

Submitter: Gary Stanley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

A section of the bill, as described by the KATU.com website, says, "Homeless individuals would also be able to sue for up to \$1,000 if swept, told to relocate, or otherwise "harassed" as per the bill." This would make it impossible for municipalities, cities, or counties to in any way regulate homeless camps. Every person has a "constitutional right to exist" (as Jimmy Jones puts it) but that existence is not free from restraints. Society comes with many restraints. Society has rules without which it breaks down. Not being able to regulate large encampments because of safety (personal, fire, or health) concerns, or simply because it is blocking public right-of-way would (and is, in my opinion) hasten such breakdowns. This bill would also open our public forests to abuse and contamination (for both animals and vegetation) in a supposed era of environmental awareness.

Being homeless does not give a person the right to impinge upon or destroy other person's rights. Those rights include living in a safe, healthful environment without worry and having access to public places without having to maneuver or avoid unregulated campsites that make use of those public places impossible for others.