

Submitter: Shannon Cowie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I have empathy for the homeless and anyone who has had the misfortune of losing their home. That being said, I already do not feel safe walking around Portland surrounded by tents. I've been harassed by the homeless living in tents walking to and from my car near my place of work. I'm certainly not interested in giving them even more rights to be there to harass me and make me feel unsafe. I've countless times seen homeless smoke meth right in front of my place of work on camera. I've had countless pass out in their cars, sometimes with needles still in their arms. I don't believe providing more rights for them to have their tents in public spaces is going to help those individuals. It's going to provide them with more opportunity to create unsafe and hazardous spaces in Oregon. And to be frank, it doesn't seem safe for them either. This is not a long term solution to a very serious issue. An issue that is growing rapidly and has gotten so much worse in a short period of time. The decisions Oregon has made has lead to a very serious issue, I believe this will perpetuate the same issues we're having and make them worse. People are leaving Oregon in floods, Portland especially. Decisions like this are a huge factor.