

Submitter: Nicholas Houx

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

To whom it may concern,

I believe this bill is redundant and unnecessary because of the 2018 ruling of *Martin v. Boise*, where the supreme court ruled that governments cannot criminalize living in public spaces if the local government is not providing enough shelter beds for each homeless person.

Local governments in Oregon have not been able to increase housing for homeless needs in every city, every homeless person already has a right to public camping until the state can create more housing due to the *Martin v. Boise* ruling. I don't believe it would be a good idea to allow, under constitutional right, people to choose public camping rather than open/available housing. If we are publicly funding more housing with tax dollars, we should be restricting public camping as the shelters/housing situation improves. I cannot support a bill that would likely result in homeless individuals deciding to keep on publicly camping, when there are enough shelters/housing because they now have the constitutional right.

Public camping is dangerous for homeless individuals (see multiple reports of homeless people being killed by vehicles and crime in make-shit camps), results in destruction of publicly funded land (trash, paraphernalia, public land infrastructure such as restrooms) and deteriorates the land's natural habitat (animals, plant life, trees, etc). Public camping should be a last resort when the state is unable to provide enough beds, not a constitutional right that supersedes all law aimed to preserve safe/clean public land. Homeless individuals deserve a safe, clean, warm place to live that is close to important resources, not in a tent anchored to a tree with deteriorating rope, teetering on the edge of an eroding hill.

Thank you for your time