

Submitter: Mike Perrault

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Without enforced time limits, this bill does nothing except enshrine the destruction of public space. Would the sponsors support the occupation of the Malheur Reserve, complete with the destruction of ecological resources & indigenous spaces? This bill grants protection to the same narcissistic notions that were the ideological underpinnings to that fiasco. Public land is for everyone to use and enjoy. It is not space to be homesteaded and claimed for the sole use of its occupants. The 1000 Acres Park in Troutdale is a fantastic illustration of this problem. What used to be an incredible public resource now is a campground for folks who think they have a right to restrict access to public trails, build massive trash middens & intimidate those who try to use the park for its intended purpose.

This does nothing to help homelessness, but it does arguably invite vigilantism & a further erosion of trust in governance. Fund mental healthcare, please. Fund public housing. But this is performative nonsense that fails to read the room & invests energy into those least willing to be part of the social contract. Meanwhile the working class of this state continue to be told very clearly that they are the only ones obligated to operate as a member of society and under the rule of law. the upper class and the poorest among us get a free pass to behave as they please.