

Submitter: Jane Lange

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Clearly Oregon, in particular Portland has a homelessness crisis. The manifestation of the crisis, however, is not just for the homeless themselves, but for the entire city. We already allow tent camping in public spaces. Unfortunately, there is an associated major garbage problem with many camps due to their uncentralized location and lack of garbage collection. Many camps also actively accumulate large quantities of scrap metal, broken furniture, and general waste. I am very concerned this bill will lead to even more accumulation of garbage in our city's sidewalks, forests, and freeways. The impact on other users of public spaces needs to be considered, including the disabled, local businesses whose livelihood relies on sidewalk traffic. The vitality of our cities relies on a public who is comfortable with traversing public spaces. There are many areas of the city that I no longer feel comfortable traversing on foot due to trash, used needles, etc. I am concerned this bill will lead to further deterioration of our public spaces.