

Submitter: M W

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Allowing people to turn public spaces into their homes is inhumane to the unhoused and negatively affects the rights of housed tax paying persons who can no longer use public spaces.

A humane home (house) has electricity, plumbing, heating, security, codes for safety, and rubbish removal.

Public spaces have none of these and lead to unsafe and unhealthy conditions putting the unhoused at risk.

Homelessness is not a crime. But the littering, theft, property destruction and human harm that come from it are. By supporting this bill and the detrimental impact on unhoused people you are committing both a legal and moral crime.

To consider a bill like this is as insane as if I were to let my adolescent children build a tree house on their own and live in it unsupervised just because they wanted to be left alone. If I did that, wouldn't DHS remove my kids from my custody and charge me with neglect and assault?

Why do we think houseless people with mental illness or drug addiction deserve to put themselves and others at risk when they are less competent at taking care of themselves than my kids?

Letting houseless people live in detrimental conditions because "that is what they want" is our government leaders being lazy, fearful, cowards, and avoiding addressing the real issues. What would you do for your children? Not this!

We are 200 years past frontier days when residents could do whatever they want. We have property laws, codes, criminal laws and public services to create order, safety and a high functioning society.

Housed taxpaying residents give you 9% of their income every year to keep order in our state. I am here because of the beauty in the public spaces and the focus on what is "right" for all Oregonians.

This bill is not right for those it is falsely proclaiming to protect, or the housed citizens living by state and local laws.

If it passes, it will expand the exodus of high functioning and contributing residents who no longer recognize the state they were born in or moved to.