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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Allowing camping on public property will run any quality of life in any remotely urban area. I have lived a few houses away from a camp of a few individuals and it made the sidewalks unusable. There was a lot of open drug use and a lot of trash on both the sidewalk and the street. There was also a bit of other crime, and the police were over constantly.

If we allow public camping, it will destroy any possibility of safe walkable space within our state. Everyone will be forced into cars and the quality of life will decrease for everyone, especially low income people that rely on public spaces the most. We need to be same to feel comfortable and safe in public spaces, not like we are intruders in someone else's house. Why is someone entitled to take away everyone else's right to using that space?

Portland already has a lot of funding through the supportive housing tax to address there needs of the unhoused, so there is plenty of funding already to provide non-root cause solutions. Maybe this needs to be expanded.

We need to do just as much for people who are low income and on the brink of homelessness as those who have already become homeless. Deregulating how public spaces is used will make walking on sidewalks next to camps unsafe, it will make public parks unusable and will make the state not a good place to live.

I love how much Oregon focuses on car-less accessibility, but I will move if this becomes law.