

Submitter: Brenton Chose

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Greetings,

I respectfully oppose HB 3501.

The idea of the "Tragedy of the Commons" is a phenomenon in which common resources, in this case public property, tend to become depleted, exhausted and destroyed if the number of and type of users exceed what is available, or are used for something other than what the resource was intended for.

I have studied and worked in the realm of protecting public spaces and public resources, specifically parks and natural areas, for approximately 19 years. Our public spaces, parks and natural areas are an amazing and unique public resource that provide joy, solace, rest and recreational opportunities to the public as well as providing habitat for birds, fish and wildlife. Providing a place for humans to sleep, or live, is not a function that these resources can handle without becoming depleted and unusable by the majority of the community or wildlife. If one were to tour the city of Portland and examine those public areas where houseless people have set up a place to reside they will see the destruction that occurs. Habitat trampled beyond repair, toxic substances and hazardous waste strewn about, piles of garbage, abandoned and burned vehicles. These consequences have a detrimental effect on the resource and our community members and it is ultimately the communities that foot the bill for the cleanup.

Our precious public resources are designed to be utilized on a temporary, low impact basis by our children, our wildlife, our pets, and others. They are not designed for long term, extensive use that degrades the beauty, exhaust the resources, are a financial burden on the public and take away from other community member's ability and right to enjoy those areas.

I have empathy and compassion for people experiencing houselessness, addiction and mental illness. But there are other alternatives to find places for these people to live. Hardened sites such as abandoned parking lots come to mind. Areas that will not be physically damaged by their presence.

Respectfully,

Brenton Chose