

Submitter: Theresa Beck van Heemstra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

In the last three years, because we live across the street from an office complex parking lot, our block has been host to a number of campers. A few of these campers have been quiet and respectful, but the majority have been extremely disruptive to our neighborhood and discouraging to the small businesses trying to stay afloat on our block. We have cleaned up drug needles and human waste. We have woken up in the middle of the night to screaming fights and death threats between campers. Some of my neighbors have been screamed at and threatened. Buildings, including the apartment building next door to my house, have been lit on fire. The office complex across the street was host to the dog owned by the camper who bit Pix Patisserie owner Cheryl Wakerhauser. This is not a safe rest plan for anyone— the campers or the housed people on our block— and we can't continue to live this way. In addition, public places like city parks belong to the public to enjoy, and can't become so overrun with campers that children and housed neighbors will no longer be able to enjoy them. Oregon can do better for everyone than this poorly thought out plan.