

Submitter: Malcolm McIver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear Committee Members,

I understand you will be hearing arguments on May 4th regarding HB 3501 that would decriminalize camping in public places and establish a series of "rights" for individuals in any public space including free use, resting, occupying a vehicle, camping, etc. I urge you to oppose this measure based on the effects a similar approach has had in the City of Portland. We have experienced an explosion of camps that has had adverse effects on public safety, drug use, and the welfare of homeless people. The City's policies have created trash-strewn campsites all across the area and an environment downtown that can feel hostile and unsafe for many people. It has contributed to businesses fleeing the city for safer and more orderly suburban locations. I cannot see any reason to apply these failed policies to the entire state.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against HB 3501.

Best regards,

Malcolm McIver