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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Oregon's parks belong to us all. We must not give them away to the homeless. Of course, the rest of us could still use the parks, but safety would be a concern and sanitation. I would not send my grandchildren there! I would not send my elderly mother there!

Parks are for solace, recreation, exercise, enjoyment of nature, and many other things. All this would be compromised with tents for homeless there.

We do need to solve homelessness, but the solution is not to give away our parks. We need to get at the causes -of homelessness and fix them: Some causes are people not really getting a real education which might include how to take care of oneself (a program of how to stay clean, eat properly, manage money, etc could be created), insufficient jobs for non-college graduates, free or inexpensive college education, the lack of mental treatment, insufficient low- cost housing, possibly over-population, drug use un-repaired (need to get to the underlying causes of drug abuse), insufficient medical care, poor diet. and other actual causes of people not having homes,

When solving a problem (in this case needing safe places for the homeless) we must guard against a situation of not solving the problem really and just creating more problems.

Possibly some sort of work program for homeless to earn the right to camp along with very high standards of what camping would be like and people with the job of enforcing the rules might be created to allow a SMALL number of homeless to live in SOME parks. Without this sort of thing, it just gives the homeless our places for them to wreck and no accountability.