

Submitter: Joanne Sterling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

A long time ago, we lived outside, in caves. As time progressed human beings yearned for order, more permanent dwellings, structures, eventually cities and rules. Government was created to advance civilization, and create more safety, better public health, better education, better prospects for its citizenry to thrive. Lately we have taken a step backward.

The chaos and bedlam of homeless persons occupying public spaces has infringed on the rights of homeowners and businessowners, tenants, students, elderly and minors, who are no longer experiencing quiet enjoyment of their own properties. Our tolerance of tents and vehicles occupied anywhere at whim has created an atmosphere of lawlessness, filth, fear and destruction in our cities, parks, neighborhoods and river fronts. What are laws for if not to create order?? and safety??? Some "rights" have to be put aside for the good of the whole. Or we shouldn't bother to have cities and government at all.

Please, dear legislators, use common sense in considering this bill. Oregon is already losing businesses, reputation, credibility on the national front. Without people wanting to move here you will be contributing to conditions which destroyed places like Detroit. Is that what you want, really? To suggest that a person perceiving his/her rights infringed by not being able to sleep on a public sidewalk, or parking and living in a vehicle in our cities should be entitled to a \$1,000 fine, imposed on the "infringer" is absolutely ludicrous. Punish law abiding citizens who simply want a safe, decent place to live ??? While your mandate is to serve all, the pendulum has swung too far. Our tolerance of anarchy is sucking the life out of our cities and if we don't do something quickly we will no cities, property or structure to fuss about.