

I am writing to oppose HB 3501. The rule of law and public safety are the foundations of a free and prosperous society, and public safety is everyone's responsibility. Public property, including sidewalks, public transit facilities and parks are just that—public. These belong to all of us and allowing a small number of people to erect tents and stay overnight in public places removes access and the ability to enjoy these spaces from everyone else. Please explain why the rest of us should pay our property taxes, which support these public spaces, if our elected officials decide to pass this unfair rule?

Allowing tents on public places is not empathetic, and in some cases is in direct opposition to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will only waste time and money trying to defend this rule in court. We elected you to solve problems, not to take away our freedoms.

How many more businesses will decide to leave Portland if you pass this unfair rule? Stop pandering to a small group of people to the detriment of all the other citizens.

Please, control the urge to “do something” and instead find a solution that will not make the situation worse.