

Submitter: A Chris

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I agree that everyone should enjoy public places such as parks in the way they are intended. I don't agree with the further steps this bill is going. It allows public camping in any space. On a public health and safety concern this is disconcerting. Many camps in Portland that are not authorized are riddled with garbage including human waste, needles. Crime syndicates have taken over some camps. If this proposed bill is allowed it will just get worse. We need to focus on resources we have or trying to establish. Oregon legislation needs not to pass the buck on this and make it only local government problems. The state of Oregon needs to create more housing resources. They also need to put an end to investors especially foreign investors buying up our single family dwellings. Their greed is causing a shortage and expensive housing. When affordable housing does go up its not that affordable. Affordable housing in Portland laughable. An average apartment is \$1800 for a one bedroom. Even with someone making 50k a year couldn't reasonably afford that if they have other bills or a child to raise. It's insane. You need to focus on these housing issues, not public camping. Public camping is a symptom to the crazy housing conditions right now. The root cause of that symptom needs to be addressed and that is increased costs of housing. Which will be made worse in the coming years. Focus on that not public camping.