

I'm writing on behalf of the 40 households who reside next to the State of Oregon's land and who will be further endangered if HB3501 is enacted.



Trespassers on ODOT's land next to our apartment community have repeatedly lit reckless fires, threatened our residents and staff, and damaged our building to steal electricity and water for their drug dealing operations.

ODOT's land is fenced and posted "no trespassing", but trespassers repeatedly

cut or climb over the State's inadequate fencing. We even had to partner with ODOT to replace its own fencing.

Since *Martin v. Boise*, trespassers have become more bold in building on ODOT's land. We even caught trespassers unloading concrete from a Mercedes SUV to build permanent structures.



The State of Oregon already struggles to remove trespassers from its *fenced* property. Our residents endure weeks of smoke from dangerous fires, propane explosions, and drug deal fights occurring within feet of their apartment windows while law enforcement posts notices to remove obvious trespassers. All of this is in addition to illegal dumping, feces, needles, fentanyl tin foil, and graffiti that accompany these so-called campsites.

We are compassionate to the houseless people in our community and understand there is a housing crisis and an opioid epidemic. However, the trespassers that we encounter are not seeking shelters to rest, but are seeking a place to conduct illegal activity.

This bill's requirement that law enforcement direct trespassers to alternative campsites before enforcing the law is unfeasible – especially since the State has yet to erect such alternative 24-hour campsites or shelters. This bill will only further embolden more criminal activity on the State's lands.

While this bill seems well-intentioned, it burdens the neighbors of public lands with the dangerous fires, criminal activity, and unsanitary conditions this bill will further encourage on public land.

Norman Birthmark  
ODOT neighbor