

Submitter: John Loomis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill unnecessarily caters to the houseless population and will result in public spaces becoming inaccessible to the majority of the public due to safety and hygiene concerns. Maintenance of public spaces already faces staffing and funding challenges, allowing unrestricted use of these as campgrounds will only increase the burden on government agencies to attempt to maintain clean public spaces that are approachable to all.

Legislators need to seriously consider the impacts of this on all members of the community. Tourism will greatly be affected if houseless people were able to camp throughout Tom McCall park for instance. Our City has worked so hard to overcome the negative PR brought upon us during past unrest and is just now starting to feel like Portland of years past, don't throw it away now.

Our State already designates a significant portion of our spending on programs to help the houseless. Work on making these programs more effective instead of conceding to the issue.