

Submitter: Kris Christian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- Public land should be maintained as the commons for the recreation and enjoyment of all citizens and visitors.
- Allowing one group of people special privileges to use this public land for camping outside of designated campgrounds without regulation that protects the public's lands is a form of segregation.
- Campgrounds exist on public land throughout Oregon. They are available and have the appropriate infrastructure to support camping activities. Several campgrounds operated by the state or county are near my home and are associated with parks that I visit frequently. Except on a few summer weekends, they have vacancies with many available campsites. I suggest that we are not lacking in available campsites in Oregon.
- State, county, and city buildings exist which are frequently empty of activity. Examples include the Expo Center in Multnomah County, The Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro. All of these locations are certainly safer and more comfortable than public spaces along freeways, under bridges, and exposed to the elements.

Please reject this legislation to protect Oregon's future as an egalitarian society which does not give special privileges to one sub-group.