

Submitter: Violet Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3522

As a long-time property manager and rental owner, I have dealt with squatters on a number of occasions. Usually, the police will not provide assistance, stating that squatters are a civil matter rather than a criminal one. So, it is left to the property manager or owner to deal with these individuals and the damage that they do.

I have a property in downtown Salem that was broken into numerous times while vacate. To enter, the individuals broke windows and doors and left trash and personal items in the unit which we needed to remove and clean up. In another vacant unit, the previous tenant allowed a large group of teenagers to move in. Again, once we finally got them out, we were left with numerous dirty mattresses, debris to clean up, and property damage to repair.

In several cases I had to go through a formal eviction process to remove the squatters. During that time the individuals are not paying rent or for utilities and the owner had to bear the cost of the eviction process and other damages.

I strongly urge you to pass House Bill 3522.