

Written Testimony in Support of SB 1514

Submitted to: Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

Re: Senate Bill 1514

Chair and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Jennifer Bragg, and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1514.

I live and work in Roseburg, a rural, community-oriented city that like many communities across Oregon is struggling to respond effectively to a growing number of complex challenges associated with homelessness. These challenges are not theoretical. They are visible daily to residents, businesses, service providers, and local governments who are doing their best with limited tools and resources.

Senate Bill 1514 is important because it restores local flexibility. It repels a one-size-fits-all statewide standard and allows cities and counties to respond to conditions on the ground in ways that are lawful, balanced, and appropriate to their specific communities.

In Roseburg, the impacts of unmanaged use of public property have become increasingly difficult to address. Local governments are asked to balance compassion, public health, safety, environmental protection, and the basic livability of shared public spaces. Without clear authority to regulate the use of those spaces, local officials are left with few options often resulting in outcomes that serve neither housed nor unhoused residents well.

This bill does not criminalize homelessness, nor does it prevent jurisdictions from continuing to provide services, outreach, and housing solutions. Instead, it recognizes that communities differ in size, geography, service capacity, and infrastructure, and that local governments are best positioned to make reasonable, context specific decisions.

Roseburg is a small, rural community with limited resources. The strain on public spaces, parks, and rights-of-way affects everyone, families, seniors, businesses, and people experiencing homelessness alike. Restoring local decision making authority is a necessary step toward creating safer, cleaner, and more functional public spaces while longer term housing and service solutions continue to be pursued.

I respectfully urge the committee to support SB 1514 and allow communities like mine the ability to respond thoughtfully and responsibly to local conditions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bragg

Roseburg, Oregon