

Submitter: Doug Goebel
On Behalf Of: common sense
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3501

I have lived in the Portland metro area since 1990. While the beaches, mountains, lakes, forests and ocean are beautiful, I cherish the parks and trail system that are so conveniently accessible right here in the Portland metro area. Our elected officials have allowed homelessness to take over sidewalks, parks, trails, hillsides, interstate rights of way and private property. I have logged 1,000s of miles running and cycling the Springwater Trail and I-205 multi-use path and have seen first hand how our elected officials have allowed, even encouraged, the degradation of what was once an asset of the city. I have been attacked while on a bike, forced to divert around piles of trash, observed countless needles, held my breath due to the offensive odor of urine and feces, witnessed nudity, and am completely dismayed at the trash, junked cars, tents, etc. that litter our public spaces. It's disgusting and has reached chronic levels despite more money and raised taxes to supposedly fight this problem.

And now comes HB3501 with a proposal to just give up our public spaces and allow what I just described to permeate every square inch of what was once one of our greatest assets. This bill helps no one and just allows what has been happening to proliferate to levels we can now only imagine. There are, and have always been, resources for these individuals to get off the street. I have volunteered at Union Gospel Mission and have heard their stories firsthand. You can't help people if they don't want to help themselves and would rather CHOOSE to live in this manner. Making it more accessible will not make their lives better because they will NEVER seek the help they need. And the economic impact to the city will be measured in the hundreds of millions when it is all added up. Lost tax revenue from businesses and individuals that LEAVE and those that will NEVER move here. Tourism that will never rebound. This Bill will accelerate the downward spiral from which the City may never recover.

I do not support HB3501!!