

Submitter: Cory Samia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

This bill makes no sense if the intent is to help out the homeless and move them towards services that eliminate their homelessness. I don't see much difference between where homeless can camp now before this awful bill and then after if this ridiculous bill is passed...except perhaps public, PUBLIC, parks. I hate to play the long time taxpayer card, but I have paid thousands of dollars to support Metro and other land acquisition agencies to purchase and restore land for open spaces and habitat. These are public lands which, from common understanding means that the lands are reserved for all...not just for homeless. I managed a sensitive Columbia River riparian habitat before I retired. Thousands of dollars (i.e. taxes) were spent to remove garbage and prevent devastating fires from abandoned or untended campsites. This open space was supposed to be a shared space: for citizens, for wildlife, ...not a river side camping site for one user group with no bathrooms or running water. Trees and vegetation were cut. Wildlife removed or intimidated. Garbage with feces and drug paraphernalia left, campfires left burning. How is this compatible with public access for all? Would any of this cause you to rethink taking your family to this place?

And by the way, I and many others have voted for and paid thousands to Metro for Affordable Housing. Hey, but it's only money, right? But if this bill passes, then it's not only money but my and my neighbors' quality of life that is severely impacted. But then again, if this passes, I too can go set up my tent on beautiful public land anywhere and pay nothing. Perhaps I should rethink my opinion...NOT. This is sarcasm in case you missed it. If this passes, good luck with asking voters to again support Metro, Parks departments and other agencies who ask for tax increases to purchase and manage more greenspaces, habitat and public parks. Why would I vote for something that gives more money for camping sites? DO NOT VOTE FOR THIS INEQUITABLE LEGISLATION! We all have rights...the environment has rights. Figure out an actually effective way to help the homeless.