

Good Afternoon:

My name is Betty Holladay. I am a resident of Lake Oswego, a graduate of Willamette Law School, and a member of the Poor People's Campaign. I have recently become involved in an effort to save a tiny cabin village in Portland called Hazelnut Grove. I have gotten to know some of its residents who prefer to be called formerly houseless. For years now many of us have seen our homeless population grow and expand - far more than many of us ever remember. It is time that we learned to put aside our prejudices and misconceptions about the houseless. They are no different from you and me. They laugh, they care about others, they work, and they are just trying to do the best they can with the limited resources that they have. This legislation gives the houseless the dignity they deserve. The right to just be - without harassment or arrest. The right to have their few possessions safe from arbitrary confiscation by law enforcement. The supporters of this legislation and its crafters know what they are doing. I trust their expertise in this matter. And I am sure you will hear from them... My reason for writing you is to add the growing number of voices who want to create a better society. One that does not separate us by class or income or more explicitly by we vs they. To that end, I encourage you to pass this bill from committee to the House for a full vote. Let ALL of us have the same rights and privileges. Thank you.