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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

We have allowed the homeless crisis to destroy Oregon. Our forests and cities are covered in human refuse and trash. Theft is rampant. We need to restore law and order or else people homes will not be safe and businesses will continue to leave Oregon. Portland is the poster child for allowing permanent camping by homeless to go wild. People's cars are broken into, businesses can not get insurance for theft and looting because Portland is so high risk. I grew up there. I can no longer visit the rose city. It is unsafe and the beautiful city is a trash heap. Tourism is dead. I am seeing my current town now lose its allure since the outdoors is becoming a dangerous trash heap. Law abiding and tax paying citizens are suffering.

Neighborhoods are deteriorating. There has been an age old saying, give a man a fish and feed him for a day teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime. We need to look at Finland's model of buying apartment complexes and dorms to house the homeless. There is zero barrier to entry but you must submit to social services to rehab drug issues, mental health and find a job. Inflation and the pandemic handouts resulted in less drive for people to work and more desire to permanently sit on their back sides. Free money handouts with no skin in the game is a waste of valuable resources. Unless someone is disabled the homeless need to be productive even if it is public service work picking up trash. No more free lunch. No more human refuse and trash everywhere. No more lawlessness and theft driving businesses away. We must right the ship before Oregon loses its quality of living and tax paying citizens leave the state.