

Submitter: W Patrick Seehafer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

While I empathize with those at risk and in a state of homelessness, simply allowing access to public spaces and a mechanism to claim funds is too low a bar for a solution. This is a well intended but ultimately flawed effort to mask symptoms rather than address the cause. The 1% tax and other public funds should provide realistic solutions for work programs - we have not done enough to provide meaningful productive outlets for those in need, to allow them greater likelihood of again grabbing hold of the societal ladder. This in essence would encourage homeless to claim use of public spaces that while paid for by public funds, would be rendered less or even non-useable by the general public. Oregon leaders and city government can do more, and we can all do better. I stand opposed to this approach as a registered democrat and long-term Portland resident.