



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Cameron, Chair
Danielle Bethell
Colm Willis

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
Representative Ron Noble, Vice Chair
Representative Karin Power, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

March 8, 2021

Re: Oppose HB 3115

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners opposes HB 3115, which would limit local control of the homeless crisis facing Oregon. Each unique jurisdiction requires a different creative approach to address the issues facing their community.

Passing HB 3115 will bring undue and unfounded claims against counties and cities. Each new claim will require local governments to expend resources to justify actions taking funds away from programs that would be used to help support our local communities. Furthermore, by not allowing attorney's to collect attorney fees, this bill invites frivolous lawsuits with little fear for those who challenge the law and lose. In addition, this bill is unnecessary as Oregon already has a legal process for people to challenge local ordinances in circuit court.

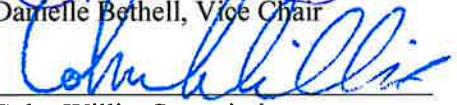
As each locality searches for ways to address the growing homeless population, HB 3115 is not a solution. This bill would place residents in our communities at risk by restricting local government's power to limit homeless camps. Public safety is one of the main priorities of cities and counties and we must maintain local control when deciding if a homeless camp is acceptable near such places as schools, daycares, or local youth center.

The Marion County Board of Commissioner urges the committee to oppose HB 3115. Limiting local control is not the answer to the homeless issues facing our state. Cities and counties should not be limited in how they address the homeless issue in their community or on how they protect their residents.

Sincerely,



Kevin Cameron, Chair


Danielle Bethell, Vice Chair


Colm Willis, Commissioner

Cc: Marion County Legislative Delegation