

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3501 and SB 603. I am an Oregon resident, 20-year Portland resident and Urban Design Professional. More importantly, I live in the urban core of Southeast Portland, and have experienced the blight of homelessness in my neighborhood firsthand.

That being said, I would like to discuss the idea of public space or “common space”. When one is allowed to claim common space as their own, it robs the greater community of aesthetic value, the right to common use and a sense of community. Simply put, common space is for the use of the general public and should not be allocated to one individual: whether it be a developer, private interest, or houseless individual.

I understand the problem of homelessness is an epidemic. The solution, however, is not surrendering the rights of the public in favor of an individual or group. Rather, solutions should encourage individuals to get off the street and into a system that promotes long term sustainable housing solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Common Space Advocate and 20 Year Oregon Resident