

Submitter: Aaron Bass

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I am a native Oregonian who lives in Portland and owns a company downtown that employs about 85 people. The sidewalk camping and misuse of other public spaces is at the root of the deterioration of downtown and other once thriving neighborhoods. As a very proud Oregonian its painful to ponder the thought of leaving this once great place. I have seen numerous long-time Oregonians leave because of these conditions. If the legislature passes a bill memorializing this failed policy, I do not believe that I personally or professionally can continue living and operating a business in these conditions. My colleagues and I have experienced everything from lack of sidewalk access due to excessive trash, needles, human waste, and tents to having our property regularly vandalized. Employees have quit due to being assaulted by members of the camp outside our office. Most everyone I know has lost most of their empathy and all of their patience. If you pass this bill, my family and my business will be left with no other choice but to find a new home. I know we are not the only ones.