

The homeslessness problem in Portland and in Oregon in general is out of control. In the 30 years we have lived in Oregon we have seen conditions deteriorate to where our urban areas are barely recognizable any longer. HB3501 would make conditions significantly worse. We cannot make Oregon a safe harbor for homeslessness or we will never return our cities to the beacons of safe sane living that they were when we arrived.

The rights of ALL citizens must be respected and we must not allow illegal camping of vagrants in public places to subvert the rights of ordinary tax paying citizens who only wish the right to live in peace and safety. Businesses deserve the same consideration and if it is not afforded to them they will leave in droves. Already business in downtown Portland has been damaged by the lax attitude toward vagrants – if we want to give them temporary shelter and life support it needs to be done in manner consistent with the rights of all residents....

When I see refugee camps in warn torn regions around the globe, I see endless aisles of white tents for these poor unfortunates to sleep in. I always ask myself why we are not doing the same thing for our own ‘refugees’ from society. They should not be pitching tents and creating piles of garbage and dangerous living conditions on our sidewalks and public spaces. We have to clean up our cities, turn down dangerous bills like HB3501 and create supervised suitable camps in more remote areas for those people suffering homeslessness.