

Submitter: Chris Steinbacher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

I'm a 36yr old Oregonian. I've spent most of my adult life living in Portland, and it is in such a steep rapid decline, I can't imagine a person in their right mind thinking this bill is a good idea and will help the homeless crisis. In the last 12 months I've been fortunate enough to travel across over a dozen US states and more than half a dozen countries, and I haven't seen ANYWHERE that is in as bad of shape as Portland, Eugene, and Salem are in with regards to homeless issues. Not even close.

Downtown Manhattan used to be known worldwide as one of the hotspots in America for homelessness, crime, drugs, etc.. No longer. I'd say at rough assessment they have somewhere between 5:1 and 10:1 less homeless on their streets than Portland. I bring these comparisons up because I think it's very important to see that Oregon's homeless problem is out of scale from Oregon's population. We have more homeless than other cities of larger size. I believe that is because of the incentives homeless people get from deciding to reside in Oregon. And I do not believe adding ANOTHER one will help the situation. We as Oregonians cannot afford to help more than our fair share of homeless people. It's an extremely hard, and expensive problem to fix, but one immediate fix is to stop making Oregon the best place to be homeless in America! What's stopping someone in my situation from selling my house and buying a \$200K RV and parking it in the downtown south park blocks? I'd have some prime real-estate others have paid millions for (and subsequently lost millions since you've blindly let the city run amok) with no mortgage and if anyone bothers me I've got this insane bill to protect me? It's nonsense. Real estate is radically expensive in this state, taxes are extremely high for the middle and upper class. We as Oregonians have paid to purchase, and maintain these public spaces with the understanding they would be used for their intended purpose. Parks, sidewalks, easements, water drains, off ramps. They all were paid for by us, with the agreement they would be used for their intended purpose. It is not ok to let one single person decide that purpose is now null and void, and take control over it. Again I will say I can't imagine even meeting someone that thinks this bill is a good idea. Representatives Chaichi and Pham, I strongly believe you putting this bill forward only shows how grossly out of touch you are with the situation in our state, and lack even basic judgement skills. I stand strongly against this bill. And these representatives representing our state any longer.