

I strongly oppose this bill. The use of public lands in a normal fashion is already the status quo. Homeless individuals are free to use public parks, bathrooms, sidewalks, libraries etc without harassment if they use them in a normal fashion. Adding protections for the “unusual use” of public lands for homeless activities is a travesty. We have a local park which is overrun with tents, trash, and drug paraphernalia currently. So is our downtown. So is our local “wildlife refuge”. These individuals also often engage in illicit activities such as theft and burglary (theft in one part of the city occurs and the spoils are brought back to the encampment where it sits away from prying eyes), littering, public intoxication, and noise violations. This is not normal use and should not be protected. The problem has ballooned to where many “public spaces” are unuseable and avoided by the public because of homeless activities. Oregonians are asking for *more* policing of homeless activities not less. Hamstringing cities and police departments, agencies that are already horrendously failing in their regulation of these issues, is not what most Oregonians are asking for. We are also asking for plausible strategies to get these individuals off the streets, not steps to further empower them to take over publicly funded lands. For the sake of my city and this state, do not let this bill pass. It is unnecessary and ultimately will be harmful.

Luke Masha