

Submitter: Steven Fisher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

Dear Committee Members,

I am a resident of Portland residing at 610 NE Royal Ct. in the Laurelhurst neighborhood, which is now represented by Representative Nosse, but formerly by Representative Pham, one of the Bill's co-sponsors. I am writing in opposition to HB 3501.

The proliferation of outdoor camps throughout Portland, believed to number in the hundreds, has 1) taken away park land, 2) blocked routes to schools, 3) blocked access to businesses, 4) are sources of open burning, as we try to improve air quality, 5) are sources of litter with no organization clearly responsible to pick up the trash (credit to Gov. Kotek for this phrase), so it left to volunteer clean ups. Let's be honest, many of the residents of these camps are addicted, so they become open air drug markets complete with the proliferation of drug paraphenalia. This is a small snapshot of what these camps are.

Now let me give you my take on the process this hearing represents. In Portland, we love extended process with "everyone at the table", apparently until we are elected to the Oregon House and then somehow we don't. Did the sponsors of this Bill shop this idea to neighborhood associations, schools boards, disability access groups, senior organizations etc. in Multnomah County where the worst impact of this Bill would take place? No they did not. Instead, they chose to hold a hearing in Salem that most of those affected would know nothing about, but will surely be well attended by advocates with already well documented positions in favor of the Bill, thereby creating a record of overwhelming support for this concept.

Please kill this Bill, not only for this session, but speaking to those of you on the Committee who are Democrats, because I one myself, kill it forever.

Sincerely,

Steven Fisher

610 NE Royal Ct.

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