



February 3, 2025

Dear Members of the Southwest Washington Delegation,

Senator Annette Cleveland
Senator John Braun
Senator Paul Harris
Senator Adrian Cortes
Representative Ed Orcutt
Representative Sharon Wylie
Representative Monica Stonier
Representative Peter Abbarno
Representative Stephanie McClintock
Representative Kevin Waters
Representative John Ley
Representative David Stuebe

I am writing to strongly urge that you oppose HB 1380, a state “right to camp” law, that was approved on a 9-8 vote by the House Housing Committee on January 30, 2025. As you may know, Clark County Matters is a grassroots organization committed to protecting the quality of life for all residents of our county. Central to this mission is urging local elected officials in Vancouver and all local jurisdictions to take stronger action to end public camping.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local governments have the right to regulate and ban homeless camps. But HB 1380 is a direct assault on the rights of local governments to better regulate and ban homeless camps that are a humanitarian crisis and dangerous for everyone in our community. If approved by the state legislature and signed by the Governor, HB 1380 would legalize tent cities across Washington State and even give homeless campers the right to file lawsuits against local governments to prevent local officials from ending homeless camps on public property. In 2023, state lawmakers in Oregon considered a similar bill and, facing a public backlash, refused to even give the misguided legislation a public hearing.

Prior to launching our organization, we conducted a poll among likely voters in Clark County. I encourage you to read the poll which is available on our website. But, as it relates to homelessness and public camping, here is what your constituents think:

1. 39% of voters said homelessness was their top concern followed by 25% who said public safety. A whopping 67% said Vancouver has become more dangerous in recent

years and 84% are concerned Vancouver will become like Portland with increased homeless camps, drug use and crime.

2. 75% say the problem of homeless camps has gotten worse in the Vancouver area and only 28% believe, after spending millions of dollars, local governments are on the right track in reducing homelessness in our area.
3. 69% support a complete ban on public camping in Clark County and Vancouver – including a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and non-affiliated voters.

HB 1380 is designed to block local governments from having any accountability mechanism to end deadly and dangerous homeless camps. Ending unsheltered homelessness requires a combination of compassion (more shelters and services) and accountability (bans on public camping). HB 1380 will only lead to more homeless camps and greater public safety risks that come with them.

Please listen to the majority of your constituents, not the radical activists pushing HB 1380. Please vote no on HB 1380. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Amy Harris
Clark County Matters
amy@clarkcountymatters.com