



Good afternoon, Mayor, City Councilmembers, and staff.

Thank you for taking the time to hear us all today. My name is Makenzie Marineau and I'm here on behalf of the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association to urge you to take action to end unsanctioned camping here in Portland. ORLA represents over 12,000 restaurant and lodging properties across the state, with the largest concentration of those right here in Portland. As we all know Portland has been a place where visitors come to enjoy unique, high-quality food in a welcoming, vibrant and safe environment. As of today, that reputation is at risk. It is not uncommon for visitors of Portland to share with hotel operators and restaurant employees their shock and dismay about the number of tents, the amount of garbage and the overall sense of not feeling safe here. Given the last years of government-mandated closures, inflation and supply chain issues along with constant concern about property damage and work force, many of our members have been driven to the brink, and in some cases, beyond. It's heartbreaking to see how many restaurants and hotels that have had to make the very hard decision to close their doors in recent years. Most Portlanders can name at least one restaurant they frequented that didn't survive and know the visitor who travels here often who no longer feels comfortable staying downtown. And every hotel and restaurant has had to tirelessly manage the houseless population crisis among the other stressors the past years have brought. It's unfortunate that we hear that our member's employees and guests are confronted, and sometimes threatened in or outside their establishments often.

Portland's houseless population needs help, and access to services to help them move off the streets. Decisive action is required to solve this crisis. We can only hope that Portland will continue to be the welcoming "foodie" city it has always been known to be. We encourage the City Council to unanimously support the plan to end unsanctioned camping in Portland and work together with state, county and other local leaders on this solution.

With gratitude,

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Government Affairs and Regional Leadership Teams Coordinator

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