

From: [Travis Williams](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: We support Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan's Proposal
Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022 7:08:50 PM

Hello -

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper, with hundreds of members throughout the Willamette Valley, and many in the Portland area, we support action to address people living in tents along our rivers and natural areas. What has been done to date is not working.

Our organization works to protect and restore the Willamette River's water and habitat, and was founded in 1996 in Portland. Today we have offices in Portland and Eugene, and own property in Lane, Benton, Linn, and Yamhill Counties. We conduct regular programming in Portland, and have sought to reduce trash and debris via river cleanups on a regular basis.

We believe that we need new ideas and energy to better address this situation. At this point in time a ban on camping along our rivers, creeks and natural areas makes sense.

We have seen everything along the Willamette in regard to this issue, literally - and it is simply disgusting. As a City and society we must take action to reduce endless camping and the frequent related refuse that is seen all too often. It takes only a moment to spot refuse and trash along the river in Portland.

Willamette Riverkeeper has conducted dozens and dozens of river cleanups in the past year, and we cannot solve the problem in this way. Mental health, addiction and other reasons people are out there living in a ten, full-time, must be addressed. It is about addressing the roots causes of this problem.

We support this proposal by Mayor Wheeler, and Commissioner Ryan. To date,

nothing
else has worked in the City of Portland.

Sincerely,

Travis Williams
Riverkeeper & Executive Director

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