

# Emily Sleger

**#267120 | March 8, 2021**

## Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Dear Portland City Council, My name is Emily Sleger. My partner Josh Conneran and I are homeowners in Parkrose, where we are raising our toddler son. I am in agreement for the Shelter to Housing Continuum project changes that include making it easier to site homeless shelters, Outdoor Shelters (like St John Village), more housing flexibility and allowing RV's and tiny homes on residential property. I am fortunate, I have never had to live without shelter, but I see it everyday from my home; RVs and cars piled on the road, urban campers sprawling along public land, homeless persons hauling their worldly possessions in broke-down strollers, needles in my yard, piles of human feces in the parks, and decaying mounds of garbage all over. It's become worse since I moved to Portland in 2016, and especially so since the pandemic. It sickens me, and it's not okay. If this project goes fourth, I want assurance from the City of Portland that there will be close oversight of these shelters and Group Living configurations for as long as they exist. I want to see jobs come from this- educated and trained staff at all sites to help people navigate the complexities of securing safe housing. I want assurance from the City of Portland that the crime rate in the neighborhoods where these shelters exist will not go up. I want to see shelters and Group Homes evenly distributed throughout Portland (many east Portland residents are concerned we will get the lion's share) And very importantly, our parks, green spaces, and multi use paths (205) will NEVER be used as temporary or permanent shelters. These spaces need to be restored as sanctuaries for the enjoyment of all people housed or unhoused, young and old, black, white or brown. Thank you for taking your time in reading this. I am confident that you will make the right decision to beautify and make healthy the city I chose to call home and raise a family. Sincerely, Emily Sleger

Testimony is presented without formatting.