

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Please approve the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project Recommended Draft . It's an excellent step toward solving our city's homelessness crisis.

The testimony against S2HC includes valid complaints about impacts from some unregulated camps. But S2HC will **reduce** those impacts. We have so much unregulated camping now because the campers have nowhere better to go. S2HC will help these campers move to **regulated** camping and shelter alternatives in more suitable places. When outdoor camps are regulated, they stay clean. The campers can shower, wash their clothes, and keep themselves and their property safe. Social services can be more easily offered. These are preconditions for the campers to transition into housing and jobs.

S2HC will **not** encourage camping in city parks. Under the housing state of emergency, Title 15 **already** allows the city to approve camps in Open Space zones. S2HC will allow these camps to be replaced with alternatives that should cause fewer complaints.

S2HC will enable many campers to move indoors, into mass shelters and group homes. And the many shelter options S2HC allows should make it easier for **every** neighborhood to provide its fair share of shelter. For example, wealthy single-family neighborhoods contain many large, underused houses, some of which can and should become subsidized group homes once S2HC passes. Studies have found that group homes do **not** lower values of nearby homes. But trash-strewn, unregulated camps do. By reducing the number of unregulated camps, S2HC will benefit the neighborhoods where they're most common. S2HC is a win-win for everyone in Portland, both housed and unhoused, as well as for the city government, which will be able to spend its limited funds more effectively to fix Portland's homelessness crisis. Let's make it happen.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leon Porter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Leon Porter