

# Bruce Newton

**#267215 | March 11, 2021**

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

While I fully support providing aid to people experiencing homelessness, we should not allow camping in sensitive conservation areas. In particular, camping within the riparian zone of rivers and streams has large negative impacts to water quality and stream ecology. We have spent millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours on ecological restoration of critical natural resources such as Johnson Creek and the Columbia Slough. Camping in these areas destroys vegetation, compacts soils, pollutes the water with fecal material, and often leaves dangerous trash such as used syringes. In addition to not allowing camping within riparian areas, any sanctioned camping in other areas must be supported with sanitation facilities and garbage removal. I also do not support allowing camping in parks, on sidewalks, and in residential areas. I do support camping in areas where services such as sanitation, showers, and garbage are provided. There are many vacant lots and parking lots that could be turned into supported camping / pallet shelter / tiny house / RV areas with showers, sanitation, and garbage service. We should fully implement this idea before opening up sensitive conservation areas, parks, and sidewalks to camping.

Testimony is presented without formatting.