

Aaron Brown

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

I am writing today to express my enormous support for the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project and the extension of the Housing State of Emergency. After a decade of tenancy in Portland, I just recently was fortunate enough to buy a house. It was an enormous struggle to be able to coordinate our plans for moving around both the pandemic, my work schedule and the snow storm that hit the weekend that we signed the papers. It was so immensely stressful to worry about all of these logistical details.... and yet, the morning after signing the paperwork, on our way to our brand new home I drove by Hazelnut Grove and immediately realized that my stresses and challenges of that weekend paled in comparison to those who had legitimate concern as to whether they would be able to survive the weekend. It's unconscionable that Portlanders are writing in to complain about their unhoused neighbors, and I hope you'll join me in ignoring the vitriol and dehumanizing rhetoric aimed at those that just need a basic place to stay warm and dry throughout our ongoing multiple crises. I fully support the policy recommendations made by Portland: Neighbors Welcome (in particular relating to their Open Space provisions) to empower the S2HC project to have the best and most immediate impact on our unhoused community members, and I hope Portland City Council will act swiftly to pass this measure and give our city more options and flexibility to take care of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Testimony is presented without formatting.