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

City Council Members (and staff), I want to urge you to pass the S2HC proposal, either as is, or with some of the proposed Portland Neighbors Welcome endorsed modifications. We have a huge opportunity to greatly improve access to dignified and safe housing options for the many houseless people in Portland as well as provide and preserve crucial housing options like RVs and Tiny Homes that are keeping many from falling into houselessness. Many of the comments in opposition don't see that by reducing the barriers for safe, organized, clean, serviced shelter we help address the conditions that so many see as harming their neighborhoods. Practically no one chooses to live in squalor and for many traditional shelters are not an option because they feel unsafe, cannot house their partners or pets, or require them to put at risk what few belongings they have left. By preserving and codifying existing alternative low cost options like tiny homes and RVs, massively increasing available legally permit-able space for safe and serviced shelter we'll take a huge step towards turning the housing availability cliff in Portland into more manageable slope that our neighbors can climb to more stable housing. Lets give our houseless neighbors a chance to keep what stable housing they have, improve access and availability for others, and reduce the permit and cost burden for professionally run shelters wherever possible. In the process we'll help address the safety, sanitation, and services concern that causes many to oppose any measures to help the houseless to begin with. Finally, I really encourage you to consider a more fine grained approach to the ROW. Help us keep camps like R2D2 legal by specifying that non-park open spaces like rights of way or open lots can be used for shelters. Thank you for your consideration!

Testimony is presented without formatting.