

# Trisha Patterson

**#267241 | March 12, 2021**

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

Dear Mayor and Commissioners, my name is Trisha Patterson and I organize with Portland: Neighbors Welcome. I live in Foster-Powell. I support passing the S2HC, with the key amendments suggested by P:NW. I especially support Outdoor Shelters in Open Space zones, so long as sites are approved by a vote of City Council. Open Space zones encompass many sensitive natural areas, but also encompass potentially viable land, including publicly owned parking lots and right-of-ways. To be clear, I'm not advocating for siting Outdoor Shelter in parks or sensitive natural areas. But, outright banning this type of shelter in OS zones is a mistake, and pressure-release valves must be built into this code change. By requiring a vote of city council before an Outdoor Shelter is sited in an OS zone, a public accountability process is embedded into this project. There are many ideal sites for Outdoor Shelter, and existing camps like Right2DreamToo that exist in the right-of-way and technically in an OS zone. We should not evict stable camps like these, especially in our current pandemic. Allowing for Outdoor Shelter to be sited in some appropriate and approved areas is critical to solving our homelessness crisis. Sanctioned camps can be capped at 20-30 shelters per site, given access to supportive services, potable water, bathrooms and showers, trash, and recycling. More importantly, they are a dignified method of shelter and give stability to those currently experiencing homelessness. The current Recommended Draft disallows any Outdoor Shelter in an Open Space zone, and requires a prohibitively expensive conditional-use review in low-density zones. To solve our homelessness and housing crisis, we need keep all possibilities on the table and to use the right tools. Please pass the S2HC and consider the amendments proposed by Portland:Neighbors Welcome.

Testimony is presented without formatting.