

Monica Motsko

#267349 | March 14, 2021

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

I am a teacher working directly with children in person. I am also sexual trauma survivor who finds sanctuary in walking in my local park daily as a practice that allows me to preform my best professionally. I am adamantly AGAINST this proposal to offer parks as a place for those experiencing homelessness to live. There must be a better long term solution! These fragile ecosystems and streams cannot support people living there. Where will the campers go to the bathroom, bath, cook, and dispose of their trash? All the encampments I have seen in town and surrounding areas are thrashed and damaged. Trash, human waste and graffiti are left behind. The ethic of camping that is sustainable is “leave no trace behind” and “leave only footsteps.” These practices cannot be honored when a person may be struggling with addiction and/ or mental health. Their situation is not their fault and we cannot expect respectful earth honoring practices from a person in crisis who needs support and resources. Please protect our sacred waterways and natural spaces from toxic human waste. We cannot afford to have our water contaminated or have people building fires in the woods. The risks are too high of permanent damage to areas that need protection. Please protect me from feeling unsafe and unable to use these day use spaces. There are other spaces available for sleeping and living that do not pose such high collateral damage and risks. Thank You for hearing my testimony.

Testimony is presented without formatting.