

Christopher Eykamp

#267373 | March 15, 2021

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

Dear Mayor and Commissioners, I am writing in response to a recent proposal to change Portland's Open Space Code as part of the Shelter to Housing Continuum project. I live in a neighborhood that, like many, is experiencing increasing density. Residents have very little parks or other open space available to us, and there is little prospect of adding more. I would therefore like to ask you to remove parks, natural areas, and trails such as the Springwater from consideration for the siting of permanent or temporary shelters, with the possible exception of a natural disaster. My understanding is that the current code allows shelters on a temporary basis, but many seem to be de facto permanent. Staff at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability have determined parks and natural areas are not needed for this purpose. Open space is a critical component of a livable city, and it should remain available to all. Please do not change the zoning code to make our parks available for permanent or semi-permanent housing. Thank you, Chris Eykamp SE Portland

Testimony is presented without formatting.