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

the idea that opening up city parks for "open space zones" which allows camping is not a well thought out idea. Anyone who drives, or walks around the Portland metro can see that our public spaces, parks, sidewalks, on and off ramps to freeways, almost any public land is being used for the drug addicted and mentally ill, and others who choose to live this lifestyle, which is not safe to themselves or society. These people do not have garbage removal services to keep the trash picked up. they do not have bathrooms with toilets or sewer systems, living in worse conditions since the dark ages. they urinate and defecate where ever they see fit. This is a health crisis for them and society. they do not have showers or running water to take a bath, or wash their hands. they don't have refrigerators to store food. they do not have ovens to cook with. most are addicted to substances which cause them not to be able to hold down a job therefor not being able to support themselves, which leads then to steal from others who do work hard for a living. Public land should be used for ALL people, not just for ones who are addicted to substances, do not work and need a piece of land to squat on permanently. this would not allow others to use the land for recreation as it is intended to be used for. Our leaders and public officials need to buck up, and enforce the laws. do not tolerate drug abuse, or drug abusers taking over public land. I am the public, and I vote for laws to protect public lands as it is my money that pays the taxes for the upkeep of public lands as well as YOUR paycheck, benefits, health insurance and retirement. It is about time that you all make better decisions on how my tax dollars are spent, Not by allowing our public spaces to be degraded with the drug users, mentally ill and the deadbeats who want the government, ie. "taxpayers" (ME) to pay their way in life while they camp on land that we tax payers paid for and pay to maintain. all people need to pay their own way in society. If they make the poor decision to get addicted to substances, then they need to pay, not me the tax payer. they need to pay for rehabilitation, get clean work it off by doing public works,. oh, maybe by cleaning up the mess created by others doing what they were doping leaving all their feces, and garbage on our tax payer public land? then they can get a real job like us tax payers, and help others in society by paying their fair share of taxes, which go to programs that make our society a better place to live, a safer place to live. is that not what people should be doing? working to take care of themselves and helping to make society a safe, clean, place to live?

Testimony is presented without formatting.