

Jason Motsko

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

I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow homeless camping in city parks. While I understand that there is a housing crisis, our parks and the natural areas contained within them are treasures that should not be spoiled by campers and the associated trash and human waste. The parks belong to all Portland residents, and allowing camping would essentially make certain parts of the park inaccessible to park users. I have experienced firsthand how campers have basically taken over parts of the Springwater Trail and I-205 bike path and menace people using those paths. In addition, the trash and human waste generated would harm the parks for years to come, as it is highly unlikely that cleanup efforts would return the parks to prior conditions. As a 25-year Portland resident I have always been proud of our city's natural beauty and have regularly had visiting family and friends remark about the city's cleanliness. But I am absolutely embarrassed by the current state of our city. The degree to which massive trash piles and homeless camps have overrun the city make Portland look like a developing country rather than one of the most prosperous cities in the US. Allowing this trend to continue is going to drive out residents and businesses that are the economic engine of the city. Please take this problem seriously instead of continuing to enable this rampant destruction of our city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.