

Charles Goldwait

#267522 | March 15, 2021

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

Please amend the language in 33.296.030 to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake. Homelessness is an important issue that must be addressed, however allowing temporary shelters in public open spaces, including parks, natural areas, and trails is not the way forward. Several reasons: 1. There are adequate alternatives 2. Parks being repurposed for this need when there are alternative solutions, means that the non-homeless public cannot enjoy the spaces that were created or left unspoiled for public enjoyment 3. The negative environmental impacts of outdoor shelters are real and significant Please consider alternatives to this real and heartbreaking problem. Thanks, Charles

Testimony is presented without formatting.