

# GERI BERG

**#267658 | March 15, 2021**

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

Parks and Open Spaces need to exist for the well being of the most citizens possible, and not be designated for the use of one segment of our population, no matter the immediate need. The environmental impacts of outdoor shelter are real and difficult, if not impossible to mitigate. Houselessness is not a temporary problem. This is one of the reasons I support the effort of PHFS (Portland Homeless Family Solutions). Please amend S2HC to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a declaration of emergency by City Council due to a natural disaster such as an earthquake. Portland voters approved a ballot measure in Nov 2020 to subsidize parks programs and operations raising \$240 million over five years. We did not do so to directly fund houseless shelters. Homeless services were to be funded by a measure to collect 1% income tax on high earners and businesses which also passed. Thank you for your support of public parks for all.

Testimony is presented without formatting.