

Nicole Johnson

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Council, 1000 Friends of Oregon is a watchdog organization created to protect Oregon's iconic land use system. Our mission is working with Oregonians to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas. We support responsible land use and housing options in the Portland metro area. Since 1974, with the passage of SB 100, Oregon adopted 19 land use goals which 1000 Friends of Oregon advocates for, including goal 10, which is "To provide for the housing needs of citizens of the state, [and ...] the availability of adequate numbers of needed housing units at price ranges and rent levels which are commensurate with the financial capabilities of Oregon households and allow for flexibility of housing location, type and density." The Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC) project would not only be a step in the right direction for meeting the needs of all Oregonians, we believe that S2HC is an absolutely necessary policy to begin addressing our exponentially worsening housing crisis, specifically housing those with very low incomes and the unhoused. We support passing the Shelter to Housing Project because:

- Allows Group Living by right in existing residential structures of any size. It should be easy to site residential units in a residential zone. This code change allows for some Group Living uses without a conditional use, which promotes fair housing practices and enables a wider variety of solutions to meet present and future housing needs identified in Portland's 2035 Comprehensive Plan. We know Portland is changing and needs more options across the spectrum. This measure gives us more tools to house everyone.
- Creates new, legal, and stable options on residential private property. This provision legalizes small-scale housing on private property without counting it against ADU limits. By permanently legalizing one RV or tiny house on wheels per private site, this empowers welcoming neighbors to create thousands of opportunities to keep roofs over Portlanders' heads.
- Relaxes conditional-use review requirements for shelters in most zones. In all zones except low-density zones (formerly called single-family zones), the City has designated a ceiling for the number of shelters allowed without triggering a long and expensive conditional-use review.
- Allows accommodation types in Outdoor Shelters to include RVs, Tiny House on Wheels, and other types of shelter/housing. This allowance gives homelessness advocacy and shelter providers the flexibility they need to create safe and decent shelter for unhoused people. Now is the time to act quickly so that we meet the needs of those that have the most need. 1000 Friends supports the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project because it removes barriers and opens opportunities. Thank you, Nicole Johnson Community Engagement Manager

Testimony is presented without formatting.