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

Homelessness is a problem affecting every Portlander - those who are in the throes of it and those who are lucky enough not to be. The Recommended Draft suffers from one overriding weakness: It overwhelmingly fastens responsibility for remedying the problem upon one segment of the city - the Eastside - while giving a pass to the tonier, and whiter, western part of the city. In so doing, it is yet another case of those with privilege flagging a problem, making concerned sounds, but leaving it to others to solve. And, more importantly, the imbalanced approach will affect the economic development of that part of the city that can least afford to fall further behind. It is already the part of the city facing some of the greatest economic challenges, and this proposal adds even greater obstacles to economic development in this often-forgotten part of our city. With all of this in mind, I submit the following: 1. Title 15 should not be made permanent. It is an emergency measure, and should remain so. If you'd like evidence of this fact, walk around our city, and see for yourself the impact that camping already has on our quality of life - homes, businesses and schools are adversely affected by camping and the health problems it brings. The needs of all must be balanced in solving this problem. 2. Establish a plan including designated shelters, and end camping on sidewalks in front of homes, in entryways of businesses, and on playgrounds and at schools. Anyone who does not understand how this is impacting the quality of life in our city has been living under a rock. Houseless people need to be cared for, but so do those who pay taxes for that care. The existing proposal does not remotely attempt to balance these competing needs. 3. Balance the proposed shelter map so that all parts of our city contribute to the solution. The Eastside has more space for shelters precisely because it has the least economic development. Having it become the de facto shelter section of the city will cement this fact - economic development will be permanently retarded, negatively affecting the black, brown and Asian citizens who live in this part of our city.

Testimony is presented without formatting.