

# Kevin Gambee

**#277843 | March 16, 2021**

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

I write in opposition to the proposal in the Shelter to Housing Continuum that would allow camping in public parks and golf courses. Trash, needles, and tents line our streets. Much of downtown has become unsafe. When dealing with homelessness, there is a stark difference between empathy and enabling. Ms. Hardesty states that "parks are for everyone." With all due respect Ms. Hardesty, they are not for everyone. They are for taxpayers, children, and people who obey the law and treat our city's many beautiful parks with respect. They are not for drug addicts, criminals, and those who have no care for the environmental impacts of "urban camping." As a city that prides itself on progressive environmental policies, this initiative would further destroy Portland. I would ask Ms. Hardesty and the city council, would you feel safe walking through Old Town/Chinatown? Would you feel safe jogging along the Springwater Corridor? Do you have to constantly worry about being accosted or harassed outside your home or place of business? These are the realities for everyone who lives in Portland. It's time for the city council to actually work for their constituents, the people who pay high taxes and vote. As a Portland native, what this city has become is incredibly sad. Please use common sense and do not approve the destruction of the city's public parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.