

Joseph Wilson

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

The outlined goal of the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is "to develop creative and practical solutions to enhance Portland's livability, preserve distinctive places and plan for a resilient future." With the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, there are many facets that make sense as solutions to provide housing to those in our community who are at risk of houselessness. However, it is apparent to most Portlanders that there is a socioeconomic disparity when it comes to housing. This disparity is a pressing topic for our current leaders, and there need to be solutions to address the problem of economic disparity in our community, and not just a solution to solve a result of a systemic problem. Now putting into the focus the proposed solution, there should be concern and thoughts around the positive and negative effects of providing shelters and housing sporadically throughout the city. The positive is that people of our community will have more dignity and a fulfilled right to shelter. On the other hand, it would be worthwhile to analyze how this solution may be advertised throughout the nation. Portland does not have endless funds or tax payer dollars to allow our resources to go towards people who would prefer Portland just because we want to treat our citizens better. Our budgeted taxes and governmental funds are allocated for local issues and programs. Therefore, if we provide a service that is better than what can be found in other cities, then Portland will be a destination and we will be responsible for solving the national houselessness crisis.

Testimony is presented without formatting.