

Kate Bell

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

Allowing shelters in public open space removes that space from use for intended park purposes by everyone else. And creates dangerous situations that can imperil the lives and safety of Portland residents - especially making it unsafe for our children and for women to walk around daytime or nighttime without being harassed or worse. We must find a solution for the large homeless community that DOES NOT bring dangerous, unhygienic, and crime-prone groups into established neighborhoods- that just creates another problem that impacts many and is thus not a good solution. Over the past twenty years, voters like me, have consistently approved tax measures to address inequities in access to parks, natural areas, and trails, most recently approving a new Parks levy in November 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. Also tax levies to specifically help the homeless. Obviously, access to these special places is important to the people of Portland, and should not turn them into homeless tent villages. Please amend language in 33.296.030.G to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake and amend language in the new provision 33.296.030.H to add an exception for the Open Space Zone.

Testimony is presented without formatting.