

Sergio Zepeda

#277962 | March 16, 2021

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

To the Mayor and City Council As a resident of the beautiful City of Portland who enjoys the public parks (Fields Park, Tanners Springs Park, Jamison Square Park, etc.), one who contributes financially to protecting Portland Parks, and as an architect who believes that the quality of City Parks determines the culture of a City (as recognized in my profession Worldwide) we believe our physical environment is essential to health and well being, I urge that any rezoning of the Open Space Zone for “houseless shelters” be limited to use only in a declared natural disaster, such as earthquake. Portland’s parks, natural areas, and trails, are a large part of what makes the city a desirable place to live and defines Portland as a green City worldwide. I feel compassion for my fellow houseless citizens but wholeheartedly believe a city as innovative and vibrant as Portland can undertake two missions at once ("chew gum and walk at the same time" as they say). As Portlanders, we can protect the open spaces that nourish us all at the same time we search for a solution that provides security and dignity for the houseless brothers among us. Sergio Zepeda Resident, Taxpayer, Contributor, Passionate Portlander. szepeda@zepeda-veraart.com

Testimony is presented without formatting.