

# Emily Kemper

**#277980 | March 16, 2021**

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

To whom it may concern, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important topic. I believe the Shelter to Housing Continuum is Portland's best opportunity to provide temporary shelter and transitional housing to houseless Portlanders, including the many folks who have been forced out of their homes more recently because of the pandemic's economic downturn. Like many other cities, Portland is facing an incredible housing crisis, and a visible demonstration of that is the proliferation of tents around the city and people living in the streets. Portland is better than this; we are creative people and we take care of our neighbors, and it is unacceptable and heartbreaking that this many people should be forced into the streets. I think we need to do as much as we can, as soon as we can, to remedy this situation, and the S2HC proposal will do that. I implore Council to not only PASS the Shelter to Housing Continuum, but to also adopt amendments that give greater flexibility to provide shelter, including; Extending the Housing Emergency, until at least 6 months after the end of our current public health emergency; allowing sanctioned outdoor shelters in appropriate, approved sites in "open space" zones and in the right of way (ROW); reducing time and cost for setting up outdoor shelters, including revisiting permitting fees; and do not undermine existing vehicle dwellings, and consider instead best practice sanitation solutions to support these temporary solutions. I truly believe that S2HC will allow Portland to begin to solve the housing crisis where other cities have faltered. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this incredibly important matter. Sincerely,  
-Emily Kemper, AIA

Testimony is presented without formatting.