

Jeanne Farr

#278008 | March 16, 2021

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

Please vote NO on the Portland City Council Shelter to Housing Continuum Project Proposed Open Space Amendment. This amendment would be catastrophic for Portland residents and businesses already hit by the pandemic and mob violence. Were our parks, the respite for nature and play for our community's children and families (from all over the metro area) converted into homeless encampments: - public safety will decrease; - crime would increase; - local businesses would not survive; - property values would plummet; - tax dollars shoring up city infrastructure would be reduced; - people would flee from this city; - larger companies would leave Portland; - unemployment would increase; - Portland's quality of life for all citizens would be deeply and negatively impacted; and - Tourism would tank. This incredible, creative city, in the midst of healing and rebuilding, would be dealt a blow that it may not survive. Such a deterioration of city life would negatively impact all residents of Portland and the outlying areas because we are interdependent with our business community and the services they offer. While perhaps well intended, it does not address the problem. It would in fact make it worse. Were this to pass, homeless people from other states would come here to seek community. Please do not allow this proposed amendment to pass and utterly destroy the fabric of this already fragile city. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Testimony is presented without formatting.