

Michael Perman

#278102 | March 16, 2021

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

Hello, I am writing to recommend the Council Amend language in 33.296.030.G to remove the Open Space Zone from consideration as either temporary or permanent house-less shelters EXCEPT for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake. I live in South Waterfront, which is diverse community of working professionals, retired citizens, medical professionals, and day care learning centers for children. We have precious little park land for people to enjoy, and have already been subjected to evening protests resulting in vandalism to our community. It is evidently clear that many house-less people who currently live in tents on streets do not care about their surroundings, and are complacent about filth and garbage including human feces. Allowing our city parks to be used for tents and recreational vehicles will likely pollute the area with garbage. With no long-term solution in place, public parks will become garbage dumps. I recommend that Open Space, including developed parks, natural areas, and trails, be removed from consideration for siting of either permanent or temporary shelters. In addition, the buildable lands Inventory indicated there is abundantly available land to meet the City's housing needs, for everybody. The east side communities near the river for people without permanent homes is far from capacity and there are many empty lots that could be used, providing community resources and safety without interfering in the quality of other people's lives and safety. Allowing camping and temporary shelters in our public parks is a short sighted idea that will not solve any problem and just lead to deterioration of property values, safety and health.

Testimony is presented without formatting.