

Liza Bell

#278111 | 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 the 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 am a resident of the South Waterfront neighborhood and work in inner South East Portland. I agree that available vacant land would be useful to combat our serious houseless situation in Portland. Our City Parks and trails are useful and necessary for all citizens to gather, play, and restore. If we allow camping it would alienate others from having access. My business has many homeless camps on neighboring sidewalks. There is very little regard for garbage or keeping the campsites tidy. It is impossible to walk down many sidewalks as the campsites take up most if not all of the sidewalk to the street. Often there is an abundance of garbage, urine, and feces near the tent. I am forced to walk in the street which isn't safe. I am concerned that our Parks, and trails will succumb to the same lack of cleanliness and will overwhelm the neighboring communities. There are other viable alternative spaces to propose sheltering in our City. Again, I ask that our Parks and trails be removed from consideration. Thank you

Testimony is presented without formatting.