

Ken Lance

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

I have been a long-time resident of NE Portland and have enjoyed all the outdoor activities the city has to offer. This past year has been very hard on everyone in our community and having access to outdoor spaces has been important to everyone's wellbeing. The camping in and around the city has taken a toll on many of our open spaces and I believe opening more public space to camping will adversely affect all residents and the areas we all use. The long-term impacts would be severe, and the resources and time required for restoration would be expense and extraordinary. Portland can do better than surrendering its parks, natural areas, and trails to any use, temporary or permanent, that jeopardizes their primary purpose - now and into the future. I recommend the removal of Open Space Zones from consideration for either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster.

Testimony is presented without formatting.