

Brent Neilsen

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

It is a mistake to allow temporary housing in our parks. It is a mistake for multiple reasons. We have already seen the impact of camping along the sides of our roads. Opening parks will create veritable hoover-villes. It will deny Portlanders an ability to use our parks for recreation safely. These parks were created to provide opportunity for outdoor recreation. With the pandemic it is important to preserve open space. This is also a mistake because it frankly represents an effort to avoid an issue rather than solve it. Metro just passed a significant bond measure to help with the homeless, allow camping in the parks will send a message of failure to everyone who lives in our community.

Testimony is presented without formatting.