

Rachel Murfitt

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

I strongly oppose the Shelter to Housing Continuum recommendations from the Planning and Sustainability Commission regarding camping in parks. This would essentially turn Portland's parks into homeless tent camps, which would have the effect of keeping other residents, particularly families with children, from feeling safe using them. We all know that once-beautiful Portland is already overwhelmed with tent camps that result in filthy and unsafe conditions for everyone, especially the campers. I regularly pick up human feces, needles, other drug paraphernalia, and trash from the parking lot where I work, left from people camping on our property. Portland is looking more and more like a 3rd world nation. We have seen the rapid increase of these camps over recent years as the city is no longer enforcing its own "no camping" laws. Further reducing disincentives to camping will only increase garbage (including bio-hazards), fires, property crimes, and assault. Look at the environmentally sensitive Johnson Creek Watershed and how it's been turned into a garbage dump. Do we want our parks to look like this, as well? We need to put our resources toward addiction and mental health treatment, law enforcement, and cleaning up the mess we already have on our hands. People who resist treatment and services should not be left to their own devices and allowed to be a danger to themselves and others.

Testimony is presented without formatting.