

Ashley Ellison

#278232 | March 16, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the Portland City Council, I am writing to urge you to remove Open Space Zones from consideration as either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster such as an earthquake. I support amending the new provision 33.296.030.H to add an exception for the Open Space Zone. My concerns include safety, sanitation, and enforcement. As a community we have struggled with issues such as safety, sanitation, and enforcement on the Springwater corridor and on the 205 bike paths just to name a few examples. As an emergency room RN, I support and work with many of those who are houseless, and I do not believe the proposed change to include "open spaces" in the proposal for even temporary houseless shelters is a responsible or beneficial option for any of our citizens including those facing homelessness. Please urge the Planning and Sustainability Committee to revisit this issue with a new and brighter vision for our community.

Testimony is presented without formatting.