

Imelda Whitaker

#278254 | March 17, 2021

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

Hello Portland City Council, I strongly opposed the proposal to use parks and any open green space as temporary or permanent shelters. I believe this proposal is harmful to the environment and wildlife, it does not prioritize the safety of those who are houseless, and increases fire risk. Homeless encampments introduce accumulation of trash, human waste, and other biohazardous materials that will have downstream affect to the environment, wildlife, and carried through our stormwater systems. Simply stuffing houseless folks in our parks is irresponsible and not a sustainable solution. You must reconsider the risks that come with this proposal and consider other alternatives.

Testimony is presented without formatting.