

Kathlene Kelley

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

Please do not let this happen! No camps in our parks! Over the years I have sought out our city parks to escape the grime of poor neighborhoods & the noise of traffic, to reduce work stress & to simply watch the birds & be. We have seen time & again how one tent turns into twenty, and the resulting piles of garbage & with that, rats. Petty crime, not so petty to the many who can't afford the loss, is way up in our neighborhoods. In this proposal there are promises made the encampments will be monitored, but I don't believe that for a moment. We are told there will be a 180 day limit stay, but with campers coming & going, that means that 180 day stay essentially becomes permanent, and who's going to enforce that limit anyway? We throw more & more money at this problem & it continues to get worse & worse, with more campers arriving every day. Renters & homeowners living in the poorest parts of our city are suffering from this travesty the most. How much more are they expected to put up with? Something needs to change, but allowing tents in our parks is not the solution.

Testimony is presented without formatting.