

Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey

#278420 | March 17, 2021

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

Re: Support for Shelter to Housing Continuum Date: March 17, 2021 Dear Mayor and City Council Members; I write to share my support for the Shelter to Housing Continuum. As a public health advocate, I understand the urgency of the housing emergency we are facing: a crisis we were facing before the pandemic hit and which has only intensified. Housing is the bedrock of health, providing stability to heal and maintain wellness. The Continuum expands the options for housing that meets the needs of our diverse community. As a person of faith, compassionate care for my neighbor is a moral obligation. Our unhoused neighbors deserve our help. Faith communities are a strong partner in this work. While religious congregations should not be expected to solve the housing crisis, they have much to offer, and this proposal taps into that potential. As a Portland homeowner, I want to expand our range of housing options for renters and homeowners across the financial spectrum. Incidentally, I am less concerned about tiny homes, RVs, and shelters changing the character of our neighborhoods than large new homes priced to attract buyers moving from more expensive housing markets. It does not help me as a homeowner to sustain a bottleneck of housing options for households in the key range earning less than 30% of Median Family Income. This Continuum expands options for these households, which is the right place to target investments. I urge you to support the Shelter to Housing Continuum. Thank you for your public service. Sincerely, Rev. Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey

Testimony is presented without formatting.