

Jennifer Lembach

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

I am very sympathetic to the plight of houseless people. I believe housing is a human right. I consider myself a "bleeding heart liberal". I believe that our government needs to find solutions to help get people off the streets and into housing. And though I think there are many positive aspects of this proposal, I have to draw the line at "The proposal would, however, allow the temporary siting of shelters in parks and open space for no more than 180 day." The city and county need to find alternative solutions without sacrificing our parks. I fear that once this is allowed and given the current number of houseless people, entire parks will be enveloped by the shelters. Also, how do you enforce a 180 day limit? Do you make people who have been there for 180 days leave? And what about when new people move in the next day? Do they also get 180 days? That sounds pretty permanent to me. Our parks are the only way many of us have access to the outdoors. People need a place to be outside in nature. Please don't destroy our parks.

Testimony is presented without formatting.