

Simon Boas

#278455 | March 17, 2021

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

Dear Commissioners, My name is Simon Boas, and I am a resident of the King Neighborhood. I'm writing to express my support for the Shelter to Housing Continuum and the amendments proposed by Portland: Neighbors Welcome, especially the proposed amendment to not undermine existing dwellings by requiring cost-prohibitive and unnecessary sewer and/or electrical connections. For years the city of Portland has provided guidelines for hosting and living in tiny homes on wheels and RVs on their property, and these guidelines have worked for many Portlanders--myself included. Because Portland has thus far made living in a tiny home on wheels legally and financially accessible, I have been able to live in Portland, near my parents, on property owned by friends. My wife and I have built a life and a community that would not have been otherwise possible. It would be entirely cost-prohibitive for many portlanders to add electrical posts and sewer connections to their RVs and tiny homes. Requiring such hookups may seem reasonable at first glance because we are used to seeing them at campgrounds. But a walk through many of Portland's neighborhoods show that allowing RVs and tiny homes on wheels on residential property is effective without these requirements. The city already provides guidelines for Portlanders who want to invite their neighbors to share their property, and we've seen those guidelines work for years now. Adding a sewage hookup and electricity post to a residential property can easily cost over \$20,000. Requiring such hookups as part of S2HC would suddenly displace many Portlanders who have been living happily alongside their neighbors for years. It would exacerbate the housing crisis in our city rather than help it by undoing years of progress on affordable, accessible housing. There are many alternatives for providing sanitation and electrical connections to tiny homes and RVs that do not add sudden, astronomical costs to people's existing homes. I recognize the concerns about sanitation and safety, but I fear this measure as currently written would effectively mean that existing tiny homes throughout the city will suddenly become illegal for all but the very wealthy. Existing guidelines for providing electrical power to RVs have proven to be safe and effective. There should be a suite of permanent and temporary options for dealing with grey and blackwater that are appropriate for the dwelling, the space it occupies, and the environment. Options should include community dump sites, mobile pumping units, and recapturing, incinerating or composting systems. Thank you, Simon Boas

Testimony is presented without formatting.