

Brian Posewitz

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

Like many Portland residents, I am deeply saddened by the loss of our public spaces to people living in tents and other make-shift shelters, and to the garbage and debris that tends to accumulate around that use. My personal experience with this includes the Springwater Trail, the I-205 trail and the trails along the Columbia River near the airport. The value of those areas to the general public (people who should also be considered in the policy analysis) has been considerably diminished if not eliminated. I appreciate the efforts being made by this project to provide more shelter and affordable housing but am disappointed that this proposal would allow open space zones (parks, etc.) to be used for emergency shelter and temporary shelter for up to 180 days. Doing that will continue to sacrifice our open spaces, acquired and maintained at considerable expense for purposes such as preserving nature and providing clean and safe outdoor recreation, to uses for which they were not intended. I would also like to say that the policy of accommodation persisting for many years with respect to this issue is not working. Public policy needs to do more to help and encourage people to become self-sufficient in a way that allows them to access appropriate housing. Thank you for considering my comments.

Testimony is presented without formatting.