

# Anna Kemper

**#278522 | March 17, 2021**

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

Dear Commissioners and Mayor Wheeler, My name is Anna Kemper and I live in what is now NE Portland, Oregon, land that belongs to the Clackamas, Cowlitz and Multnomah tribes. I'm writing today on behalf of Sunrise PDX. I'm grateful today to be writing to you on the topic of housing justice. We're currently in the midst of a pandemic, an economic crisis, and a housing crisis... not to mention the looming climate crisis. Portland is seeing a record number of unemployment and people forced to live on the streets without safe shelter, and some are teetering on the edge of homelessness. The Shelter to Housing Continuum codifies important policy tools to support our current houseless community while preparing for the expected climate-related population increase. I was born and raised in Portland. I care about this city and my neighbors, and I have a vision of a future that values human life and safety as much as anything else. I'm disappointed reading the pushback on the proposed ordinance- Housing inequity impacts us all, and houseless folks, especially BIPOC houseless folk are our most vulnerable neighbors. Sunrise PDX is in support of passing the Shelter to Housing Continuum along with all the amendments being presented by Portland: Neighbors welcome, but today I'd like to specifically speak on extending the Open Space zones. We're not asking for Outdoor Shelters to be sited on sensitive natural areas or parks, and there is ample area across Portland, not just east Portland, to site the shelters. Let me be clear: A blanket ban on sanctioned shelters in Open Space Zones and the Right of Ways is impractical and unethical. If we remove Open Space zones and ROWs, we would make existing communities, such as Right 2 Dream Too, illegal. By banning sanctioned shelters on all open space zones, we'll be limiting our options in response to the crisis we face. I'm only 24 and I understand that housing policy is complicated- however, I know the future Portland that I want to live in values those who are living outside as much as those who have stable housing. I know that giving the City some of the policy tools it needs to enable more safe and stable housing for all Portlanders is an important step in the right direction. Thank you for your time.

Testimony is presented without formatting.