

Brent Hedberg

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

I am a fourth generation Oregonian, third generation Portland resident. I have heavily supported charities focused on helping homeless individuals, with money and time. I am adamantly opposed to this proposal and believe it will worsen an already bad situation, not help it. The proposal in front of council has the effect of codifying shantytowns. The purpose of zoning is supposed to separate incompatible uses, not allow them by right as this proposal does. What is the city doing with all the newly approved homeless funding if the solution is just to allow "shelters" in virtually all zones? The questions I get from friends and colleagues around the country about the current state of affairs in Portland are downright embarrassing. It saddens me to see the City I grew up in as it is today. In my small neighborhood of about 40 people, I'm aware of 2 people who have moved in the last six months and 8 who are seriously contemplating moving. All of these people cited the state of Portland, the recent decisions of its leadership, and the poor value exchange (increased taxes for a worse standard of living) as reasons for moving. If approved, the proposal in front of Council reinforces that view. The proposal should be rejected and Council should focus on actual solutions, not feel good measures that reduce the quality of life in Portland for everyone.

Testimony is presented without formatting.