

Alyssa Doerscher

#278533 | March 17, 2021

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

Hello, I'm writing in support of the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended draft. Addressing housing affordability and opportunities to shelter currently unhoused populations is crucial for the long-term viability and livability of this city. All people deserve to be sheltered and no one should be burdened by housing costs, which is all too frequent within Portland's city limits. It is crucial to locate shelters near social services, job opportunities, transit, and amenities when at all possible to provide people access to the resources they need to transition out of houselessness. We must also find means of diversifying shelter locations to not place undue burden on communities that may already lack resources. While outer east Portland has the most opportunity for development of shelters, it is also home to many of the city's diverse but also disenfranchised residents, who may be negatively impacted by this development. I want to see more prolific, wealthy, white, East and West neighborhoods share their power and resources in our collective responsibility of caring for each other. In summary, I am in favor of passing this legislation and hope that there are ways that we can help ensure that wealthy neighbors with loud neighborhood associations can't disproportionately shift the responsibility to already burdened populations in the process. I also hope that additional conversations are had after adoption to consider how shelters and other housing can be located near additional important resources. Thank you for considering this feedback.

Testimony is presented without formatting.