

Danielle Maillard

#278567 | March 17, 2021

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

Good afternoon, My name is Danielle Maillard. I'm speaking today on behalf of Sunrise PDX, alongside Anna and Paxton to advocate for the passing of the Shelter to housing continuum, and particularly the passage of the amendments introduced by P:NW. I support each amendment, but I am here to speak specifically about the amendment to not undermine existing vehicle dwellings. The shelter to housing continuum creates new, legal, stable options on residential private property - meaning that RVs or tiny houses on wheels may be permanently legalized on private sites. This legalization empowers those with the adequate resources to create housing opportunities for their neighbors who are on the verge of eviction or already houseless. This being said, a foundational reason for the legalization of these vehicle dwellings is that it is a solution in getting a roof over the heads of those who can not afford it. Therefore, adding language that requires these dwellings to have \$10-20k sewer connections is a barrier of entry and would make many adequate existing dwellings illegal. I urge you to adopt this amendment so the people benefiting from these vehicle dwellings will actually have the opportunity to make a living without the burden of an expensive sewage connection requirement. We have the resources to adopt alternative sanitation solutions, such as established dumping sites, mobile street teams, or pumping services, and we have seen other cities such as Eugene answer to this call for action. It is mindblowing to me that people care so much about where exactly their houseless neighbors decide to live, but couldn't seem to care less whether these same people live or die. I am 23 years old and on this very day last year, at about this same time exactly, I was laid off from all three of my jobs because of Covid-19. I had to move out of my apartment in NE because I could no longer afford rent. Fortunately, I have family and friends who were more than happy to support me. We don't shame the people in our own lives for not having options and needing help, we do everything in our power to help them. This mentality can't stop with the people we know and love. I truly hope that anybody testifying in opposition of this policy is in the process of personally housing the people who live in the tents they are complaining about, or donating to the mutual aid funds that have existed as the only saving grace for people on the verge of eviction. The passage of this policy and its noted amendments is critical right now in addressing the concurrent crises present in our home, please stand for collective liberation and support the shelter to housing continuum and the amendments.

Testimony is presented without formatting.