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

This project proposal is unfair to the people of East County Portland and to be honest, unacceptable. This map highlights one of the largest proposed areas allowing the homeless to create tent “homes” in my direct neighborhood, 800+ people (you propose according to this highlighted map) in a small vicinity with no supervision or accountability for their actions. What should be proposed is there should be a small number of congregate areas spread out not just in East County but the West side of Portland as well. Allowing them free choice to “camp” wherever they please (like what has been going on since the beginning of Covid) does not and will not work. What this “freedom” has allowed is at least tripled the crime rates, created so much trash and biohazard waste, drug paraphernalia not disposed of properly and local businesses closing due to break-ins and other concerns. Having a few designated spaces they are “allowed” to camp with access to bathrooms, trash receptacles that get picked up regularly, and biohazard containers that allow them to dispose of their needles appropriately, would be a start, but this would NEED to be regulated by someone to keep it clean and it should be located in an industrial type of area, away from neighborhoods (that would tempt them to steal from) and schools. Most of the homeless on the streets currently have severe mental health concerns and or drug addiction or both. Allowing these people to live where they want and do as they please will not work, it currently isn’t working, the trash all over where these camps are is just deplorable and unacceptable. Making it illegal to camp on city sidewalks, parks, and neighborhoods is the Project that needs to happen first. Then create a few outdoor, congregate settings, in an industrial type of area, where they are allowed to camp (with no restrictions on drug or alcohol use, because to be honest, that is why most do not go to shelters due to the rules) and have an entity to oversee these areas and provide access to bathrooms, trash service, and needle disposal as well as social service help to those who actually want it. 1. To help this situation the Revised map showing equitable distribution of potential shelter spaces in ALL portland communities. Even if SE has more potential spaces, they should be removed from the map until a balance of ALL communities is shown. 2) No permanent changes to the codes at this time. Let Title 15 expire so that random camping is no longer allowed and extend a new emergency declaration to allow these new codes to be enacted temporarily under the new emergency time frame (no longer than one year). 3) An enforcement plan must be delineated and be expressly coupled to this action so that as new managed shelters are established, random camps are shut down,removed,cleaned up and then monitored so they can not reestablish. 4) a detailed description of what the management plan is for each site and who ,specifically,is responsible for it's implementation and results needs to be

published before any vote is taken. This bill, the way it is written, should NOT pass. It is unfair to the people of East County who have had to deal with the current state of affairs for the past year, we cannot and should not be forced to deal with the homeless issue for the foreseeable future either. In the last few years, hundreds of millions of dollars has been thrown at the issue of homelessness, and no change, it's only gotten worse. What this bill is looking like is that you're trying to sweep the homeless under the "rug of East County residents" and hope we don't complain and just deal with it. We will not and we want our voices heard! We've been paying taxes like everyone else and deserve a safe, decent and enjoyable place to live. If this bill passes, that cannot and will not be possible and I, along with many other people, will have to leave, which is sad. This was such a nice, quiet neighborhood when I moved here in 2006. I'm afraid it will never be like that again, especially if this bill is passed.

Testimony is presented without formatting.