

Sarah Lincoln

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

Our parks and natural spaces—INCLUDING PARKING LOTS—must remain open to the public. As you consider the language for the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, I urge you to remove the provision of Open Space Zones, including developed parks AND THEIR PARKING LOTS, natural areas, and trails, from consideration for the siting of either temporary or permanent houseless shelters except for a declaration of emergency by the City Council due to a catastrophic natural disaster. You will hear testimony on this issue, and you should conclude that there is already vacant and underutilized land available. You can conclude that allowing shelters in Open Space Zones is inequitable as it disproportionately affects BIPOC communities living without yards or outdoor spaces. You can conclude that access to parks, natural areas, and open spaces is a fundamental necessity for the physical and mental well being of all Portlanders and should not be infringed upon. This includes access via parking lots, and the likely effect on neighbors, neighborhoods, local ecologies, and local businesses of siting houseless shelters in Park parking lots. The houselessness crisis in Portland needs solutions, and this is not one of them.

Testimony is presented without formatting.