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

Please send Title 15. It has allowed the homeless to camp, since 2015, all over what was once a beautiful city. Five, going on six years, is a long time to allow people to live in filth all over our city. Please end Title 15 and lead rehabilitating the city. I know many businesses and people who are moving away. Especially now that they don't have to report to an office anymore. No one wants to go downtown, it is a scary, ugly, sad shell of what it used to be. And, if you are on the Nextdoor Neighborhood portal site you will read about constant and increasing theft and issues with homeless and homeless camps in neighborhoods all over town. Many are reaching a breaking point. It is palpable. I am sympathetic to the homeless and believe the majority are dealing with mental health issues and drug addiction. People self-medicate when they can't get the help and support they need. I am also aware that many states shipped their homeless our way over the years viewing Portland as liberal and welcoming. I have friends who work in homeless services and reported this going on for several years, but I've heard less about it since COVID. However, allowing people to live like animals unsheltered on the street is not 'helping' them or us. It was offered as a solution for them, and the result has been the decay of the city into filth and squalor. Please end Title 15. Give Portland hope that it might recover. Regarding S2HC: 1) Suggest distributing shelters evenly if possible. 2) Please do not take even more away from tax-paying citizens and allow us to retain our neighborhood Portland parks where people regularly gather, walk dogs, run, walk, talk, picnic, Please focus on open space land and not parks. 3) Do not allow S2HC to become the next Title 15, creating a long-term bandaid on a bigger problem. Limit this. Ultimately people need mental health and addiction services, or homeless institutions where if they refuse other help and services they can live as they choose but in a space with sanitation services, but not dotted all over town. 4) Make a detailed plan of where the shelter sites will be located and how they will be maintained as a part of the bill. 5) Assign adequate funding from the 'rich tax' to see this plan through for at least two years, one to build it up and one to figure out next steps in homeless services, with a plan to transition S2HC on to a more long term approach. Thank you for your efforts and for letting us comment. I hope Portland will be clean again.

Testimony is presented without formatting.