

# Erin Worth

**#278678 | March 21, 2021**

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

Dear Council Members, I am a resident of SE Portland with a strong opposition to the approval of S2H2. This proposal, if passed will not solve the houseless problem in Portland, nor help lead to a solution. It is obvious that our city has a problem with the number of unhoused people residing in it, but opening up our cherished and sacred green spaces for outdoor living is NOT the answer. Our parks are where the citizens of this city, state, nation and world come to enjoy nature, wildlife, quiet and sanctuary from the hustle and noise of city dwelling. Why would you consider taking that away from tax paying, voters who choose to live here for their love of the outdoors. The parks will no longer be safe, clean or inhabited by natural wildlife if you freely open them up to camp living and the litter and destruction that comes along with it. You absolutely can not deny that these things will occur, if this proposal is approved. There are family packs of coyotes living in Mt. Tabor park, do they get a voice in sharing their land with people who are not respecting it and out right trashing it? Has anybody or anything been considered in this proposal other than the unhoused population? Has any other city attempted this and seen positive results? Can you imagine if New You City opened up Central Park for unhoused living? Other ideas rather than opening up our green spaces could be, delegating one, under utilized park or vacant lot(s) for a set amount of time where houseless individuals can stay until they transition into permanent housing and where resources, social workers, volunteers, etc. can easily communicate with the group to inform them on housing/job options or opportunities. To put it bluntly, this proposal should be scrapped and should go back to the drawing board for a different solution. Since I have learned about this proposal I have begun the process of considering moving my family out of Multnomah county. If I choose to stay, I will never vote for a city council member that would back the idea of opening up our green spaces and parks to the unhoused community. There has to be a better solution for everyone and everything. Thank you for allowing my testimony and taking the time to read it.

Testimony is presented without formatting.