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#278716 | March 22, 2021

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

The Shelter to Housing Continuum policy to relax regulations is a well-intentioned plan that will result in very bad outcomes. It does not serve the houseless well for the following reasons: 1) It does not specify how it will monitor or establish standards for monitoring and oversight. 2) It does not guarantee critical services the homeless need in order to get back on their feet. 3) It does not protect parks and open spaces from environmental damage. Its position on camping in parks is muddled. 4) Insufficient regulation of shelters may exacerbate safety, trash and vandalism issues in camps, among vulnerable populations, neighborhoods and commercial areas. 5) Dispersing camps throughout the City is neither practical nor equitable. It spreads problems throughout vulnerable communities, Covid-challenged commercial areas and stable neighborhoods, rather than establishing centralized locales for critical services and houseless solutions. 6) Insufficiently regulated refuge can lead to increasing refuse problems that exacerbates Portland's Stumptown to Dumptown rap. 7) S2HC does nothing to prevent another Springwater "needle" Corridor or assuage those who are nervous about venturing onto Portland's increasingly dangerous sidewalks, residential areas and shopping districts. 8) Without strong oversight, management and support services, the new code could backlash, as taxpayers flee Portland and more businesses shutter. 9) Portland will not recover from the pandemic or houseless crisis if it continues its anything-goes-approaches to unregulated camping, trashing, nightly vandalism and destruction. 10) Businesses already faced with lack of customers and incomes must still pay rents, mortgages and lately, higher insurance costs. Loss of business incomes means fewer jobs, less commerce and an eroding economy. The result is more homelessness. S2HC will result in horrific, unintended consequences.

Testimony is presented without formatting.