

Kelly Savage

#279148 | March 26, 2021

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

I am in support of the City as we try to find workable and humane solutions for dealing with houselessness. I am asking the city to remove the recommendation to use open spaces, which would include parks, natural areas, trails, golf courses, parks-related parking lots and community centers, as temporary shelter spaces, except in the case of natural disasters and short term emergencies. The use of these spaces and facilities should not be allowed during a Shelter Shortage as defined in the proposed code. These spaces are meant for recreational, not residential use. The citizens of Portland have voted for significant tax measures to support both houseless services and parks. We need to honor the intent of the voters and ensure the ability for all to use our parks for their intended purposes. The use of these spaces would be a band-aid at best, and is not a good solution to our current houselessness challenges. I am interested in working with the City on alternative solutions.

Testimony is presented without formatting.