

# Kayleen Kusterer

**#279181 | March 28, 2021**

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners, I have been following the S2HC process and have testified at two hearings, December 2020 and March 2021. Today I am writing about three specific issues: 1) Open Spaces: Parks, Trails, Golf Courses, and Community Centers: - As a long time Portland resident and supporter of parks, open spaces, natural areas, trails, and public golf courses I urge you to REMOVE the recommendations from the S2HC to use the parking lots of parks, public golf courses and community centers as temporary homeless shelters for up to 180 days/year. Placing an outdoor shelter in the parking lot of a park, golf course or community center, with the well documented spill over issues, is not serving the citizens of Portland. - Permanent or temporary homeless shelters should be prohibited from parks, open spaces, trails, golf courses, and community centers EXCEPT in the event of a catastrophic natural disaster or during wartime. - The code should be changed to exempt community centers, cultural centers and parks and rec facilities from serving as mass (indoor) shelters for the houseless community. 2) RV's and Tiny Homes on Wheels (THOW): - The city council needs to keep the requirement that RV's and THOW's parked on private property MUST have a permanent recreational vehicle utility hookup that includes an electrical outlet, a water connection, and a sanitary sewer dump. - It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure this utility hook up is in place and operational before an RV or THOW can be placed on private property. - By requiring a utility hook up, illicit dumping of grey water and sewage will be minimized. The BES is required to clean up illicit dumping and this is difficult and expensive. It has been noted that illicit dumping often happens in green spaces, man holes, and storm drains. No one wants to live in a city where sewage is dumped into our green spaces and water ways. Requiring a utility hook up protects public health and environmental health. Raw sewage can and does spread disease. This is a public health disaster waiting to happen. 3) Housing Emergency will be extended on March 31, 2021: - If the Housing Emergency will be extended on March 31, 2021....what's the urgency to pass the S2HC on March 31st? The Housing Emergency has been in place since 2015 and now the city council is rushing to push the S2HC codes changes through, why? - Many people in Portland feel their voices have not been heard and these code changes have not had enough time out in the public for everyone to comment. The people of Portland need more time to understand (it's quite complicated) and provide comment. Portland has been my home for over 30 years, it is a city I love and desire to live in. Please keep Portland livable and safe for ALL citizens.

