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

Since 2015 the City of Portland has committed to building a substantial number of housing units for low income and homeless folks. As we have seen though, the number of low income and homeless folks continues to outpace the number of available new units, and the construction of these units has taken way too much time. So we are losing the battle to address the problem of where do we locate these folks and provide safe and reasonable living conditions. Opening up parks and open spaces is not the answer. We need large areas on currently unused property where we can quickly establish well managed sheltering communities. With this in mind I have looked around to find suitable locations. There are two that I propose: 1) the McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site on the east side of the Willamette River below the bluff between the University of Portland and the St. John's Bride; and 2) the Port of Portland's Terminal 2. Both properties have sat vacant for years and are large enough to locate a sheltering community for a large number of homeless folks. The McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site would require infrastructure work such as grading and asphaltting whereas Terminal 2 is ready right now for placing sheltering units. I believe that these properties are large enough to fit up to 1,500 or more tiny home pods like Pallet builds and provide for the necessary support services such as dumpsters, porta potties, showers and kitchen areas. Take a look at Cycle Oregon which brings in all these services at numerous locations over a full week for 2,000 riders. In addition to these necessary services, there should also be space allowed for convertible buildings to use as offices for social workers. Regarding the cost of such an endeavor, we have \$250,000,00 annually funded for exactly this purpose from the recent homeless initiative we just passed, and that money becomes available starting July 1st. Let's spend it wisely. Let's use it to fund the construction of large well managed sheltering communities with all the necessary support services as I have proposed. Thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony.

Testimony is presented without formatting.