

Chris Robertson

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

Allowing homeless encampments in Portland's open space, specifically parks and PIR, is a terrible idea that will jeopardize safety and ruin what makes Portland great. Taking the Delta Park Exit at I-5 is already like driving through a landfill - why would you want to allow that to move to the nicest areas in Portland? Tax paying, law abiding citizens use the parks and PIR on a regular basis. It is unjust and inequitable to take away from the people who sustain society in order to allow the homeless group to continue to destroy this beautiful City (where I was born). I-5, I-405, and I-205 are completely overrun with litter and graffiti - how many examples do you need that legalizing drugs leads to more drug use which leads to more crime and homelessness? You can see it happening before your eyes. Pushing the problem around the City is not a solution, and eventually you are going to reach the tipping point and you won't be able to come back to the Portland that so many people grew up loving. It's just going to be a crime ridden cesspool that is an embarrassment on a national level. It's not good for community, it's not good for families, and it's not good for business.

Testimony is presented without formatting.