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

Dear Portland: I tried it your way, but it's over. I moved to you 25 years ago excited to live a lower-carbon lifestyle. Avoiding suburbia, I bought a smaller-than-average fixer-upper, fixed it up, and lived close to my neighbors. I rode public transportation and my bike to work. I sent my son to the nearby public schools. I enjoyed a close and relatively clean downtown. You were more expensive than others, but you were worth it. I was proud of you and of me. But then you changed. You elected leaders (both local and state-wide) who:

- In the name of compassion, want to codify homelessness into zoning laws, oblivious to the vagrants who will be attracted to you from elsewhere.
- Think the only way to help solve people's drug and mental health problems, and vagrancy, is to do the same things that have failed for decades: relax laws and throw more of other people's money at those problems.
- Stand by while vandals physically abuse you, believing that apologies and condemnations are sufficient responses to vandalism.
- Defund police without anticipating the obvious result: an increase in crime.

So I'm leaving you, and so are many others like me. I'll take my middle-class income with me and spend it on someone else's restaurants, shops, and cultural activities. I hope you like whoever replaces me. And I hope they have the income to support you. I'll probably find someone new in the suburbs of another state and, regrettably, they'll probably require me to use more carbon. But I tried it with you. Please, Portland, get some help.

Testimony is presented without formatting.