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

I have serious concerns about Portland's growing houseless crisis and general approach to lawlessness. As a lifelong Portlander, I have witnessed this city change over the decades. I do not understand how we have come to be so filthy and neglectful. When I see the port-a-potties all over town I wonder what has come of the restrooms in our parks. It used to be that park bathrooms were serviceable and clean. Is this a matter of funding sources? It seems we would be better off to clean and maintain permanent fixtures and facilities rather than put eyesores in the middle of neighborhoods. Benson bubblers are a beautiful example of Portland having compassion. While offering water to everyone they remain attractive and designed in such a way to avoid shared touch surfaces. Or look to the Panera Cares model where people who cannot afford a meal may work for an hour to earn one. Or Street Roots where people become their own employer by being a distributor. Portland has done better, historically speaking. And we must do better again. Garage piling up must be addressed. When the City's response to such unsightliness is to double down with the addition of a toilet and then call it a human right...I'll just remind you that in many European cities there are no public toilets. You pay to use a facility; you carry change on you so you may have access. There is a problem which needs addressing and support. The allowance of camps and the providing of toilets is not teaching people to fish or lending them a hand to step out of their situation. Rather it is enabling behavior which brings down the livability for everyone. Portland should be the city people visit and leave saying, "It is so beautiful." Right now it is so trashed, graffiti covered, and enabling those who need a situational assistance.

Testimony is presented without formatting.