

Kim McCarty

#289318 | April 14, 2021

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

To: Portland City Council From: Community Alliance of Tenants Regarding: Shelter to Housing
Date: April 14, 2021 Dear Portland City Council; I am writing to you on behalf of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) in support of • Pass the Shelter to Housing Continuum • Adopt amendments that give greater flexibility to provide shelter, and • Extend the Housing State of Emergency. CAT formed in 1996. CAT is Oregon's only statewide, grassroots, tenant-controlled, tenant-rights organization. CAT educates, organizes and develops the leadership of low-income tenants. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So, we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies. The Shelter to Housing Continuum specifically needs to: • Legalize THOW & RVs on residential property. • Codify the current rules from BDS for utilities; don't make them more restrictive. • Use the loan program to incentivize sewer hookups but don't pretend it's a replacement for flexibility. Homelessness disproportionately affects people of color in Oregon and across the nation. Many of the people of color served by CAT are experiencing a disproportionate harassment and housing instability. I The Housing Crisis, is made much worse by the public health crisis of COVID-19. Adopt sensible housing policies that give us the flexibility to adapt to changing situations. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Kim McCarty Kim McCarty Executive Director Community Alliance of Tenants

Testimony is presented without formatting.