

My name is Kris Blackmore and I support the Portland: Neighbors Welcome amendments to codify the cities current guidelines for occupied tiny homes and RVs on residential property, as well as allowing churches, faith-based organizations, and community organizations to host shelters on their property by right.

When my husband and I were researching tiny house utilities we consulted the city's current guidelines to make sure everything was by the book. Portland already requires that greywater not be disposed of on the ground, that sewage is not dumped into storm drains, and that utility lines be adequately protected. Requiring expensive sewer connections and utility posts now will only serve to make the homes of those of us who have already been doing our best to follow the rules for the last several years non-compliant.

These guidelines already actively address the practices we want to avoid as a community such as illegal dumping but provide maximum flexibility for those who want to use alternative systems for budget, environmental, and lifestyle reasons. Portland has an exciting opportunity to be a national leader in this area — a city that rises to address the realities of our current housing and environmental challenges instead of adopting a one size fits approach. Let's legalize tiny houses and then work with the local community of builders, nonprofits, and residents to create a tiny house program that can be a model for other cities — create a permitting system for sewer alternatives and generate revenue. Provide educational materials, classes, and workshops. Keep the loan program for sewer connections, but don't require them. These are just a few ideas, but whatever it looks like, let's work together to think boldly and creatively about the next chapter in our city's tiny house story.

Thank you.