

Matthew McNamara

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

Thank you Mayor and City Council for considering these initiatives. I'm a home owner in the Eliot neighborhood and a member of Portland: Neighbor's Welcome. I'm here in support of both of these initiatives considered during testimony today: shelters hosted on institutional sites and codifying Tiny Homes on Wheels & RVs on residential property. Like many residents in Portland, I'm eager for equitable, safe, and environmentally responsible options for my unhoused neighbors. I believe both items discussed today give land stewards, both institutions like churches and home owners, the tools to be a part of a solution, even if it isn't a complete solution to our houseless crisis. As you consider formally codifying THOW, I ask you consider the impact of requiring campground hookups to those who have already found a place to live - - changes to these requirements creates uncertainty and significant risk to currently housed individuals and their families. Given the current housing crisis, requiring a capital investment to provide hookup not only limits those who can host, but can also create pass-through costs to tenants that are likely already cost sensitive. I am interested in the utility waiver option, however if the city does go this route, I feel it would be important to ensure that the city advertises and makes easy that option (free?) so that we don't create a cooling effect on those who are considering offering tiny homes on wheels on their land. I'd like to take a quick moment to respond to Maria's oral testimony today: today's amendments are about creating more equitable, SAFE, and sustainable housing for many of our unhoused neighbors, which if passed I believe would allow city, Metro, and NGO resources to be better able to serve those who are in crisis, like those within proximity of her school. Creating a 300 yard (almost 4 blocks) exclusion zone around schools would very likely exclude many of the religious institutions who would be hosting, monitoring, and supporting people in and on their grounds. These amendments are leveraging land owners to take on partial responsibility for those in their space and I believe that if passed, would create more opportunity for addressing those in need. Please enact and codify these initiatives supported by P:NW. Please continue to support and ease permitting for a variety of sanitization options. Thank you for working on these issues and for your time.

Testimony is presented without formatting.