

From: [Kim McCarty](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: fast track housing and homeless services proposal
Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:16:26 PM

Hello Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council,

My name is Kim McCarty, Executive Director of the Community Alliance of Tenants. I am writing to you to urge you to talk, and listen to people who are currently street homeless or have been before voting on this proposal. Urgency and listening is needed. Today's hearing is a start. But a fast track should not mean failing to include your most important partners and most impacted in these decisions today and ongoing.

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Ryan, your offices have been contacted by Kaia Sand, executive director of Street Roots to join some of our top agencies working with homeless and housing insecure communities including JOIN, Blanchet House, AfroVillage PDX, Sisters of the Road, Urban League PDX and others for a town hall about the impacts of this proposal.

With growing unaffordability in our city, and the last of the pandemic-era renters' protections expiring this month, this is a time to listen to our communities in crisis, and create bold policies informed by and with them.

Some of this plan is bold, and addresses root issues. Others simply rely on the status quo of criminalizing our most vulnerable citizens.

“Nothing for us, without us” should be a guiding principle for our elected representatives.

Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Ryan, this is an open invitation to listen even more to those your proposal would impact most to help us create stronger, more informed ground up solutions to one of our city's greatest challenges.

Thank you,

Kim

Kim McCarty, Executive Director (She | Her)
Community Alliance of Tenants

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| www.oregoncat.org



If you receive an eviction notice contact the [eviction defense project](#) at 888-585-9638 or fill out the [web form](#). Rent assistance may be available through community action agencies for a limited time only. [Seek options here](#).

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on the occupied homeland of indigenous communities in Oregon. Today, there are 9 “federally recognized” tribes in the state of Oregon. But before settlers came to take the land here in Oregon, there were more than 60 tribes in this area. We also recognize and honor the strength, resilience and capacity of indigenous people in our region.

Land is not just merely the space that our bodies occupy; it is a vault of culture, story, art, history, and tradition. We say this acknowledgement to show respect and as a recognition of the truth.