

To whom it may concern:

As a member of Oregon Law Enforcement, I have reviewed all of the proposed bills on Law Enforcement Reform. All of the bills seem reasonable to one level or another and having worked for arguably one of the most progressive law enforcement agencies in Oregon, still allow us to protect the public and protect property other than LC81.

Completely removing the use of CS Gas (commonly known as Tear Gas) and the LRAD from all circumstances will put many people at risk of serious physical injury and even death. It will also result in major property loss. I have taken many voluntary exposures of CS Gas in my military and law enforcement career. This crowd control tool is very valuable for many reasons. The biggest being its ability to be used as a strong irritant to the eyes and mucus membranes to want to persuade people to leave the contaminated area. Furthermore, once you leave the contaminated area, the effects are completely gone after only a few minutes in the highest level of exposure. If you do not understand CS, I urge you to take a voluntary exposure. I know you will likely not but you could even ask for volunteers from law enforcement agencies to take a voluntary exposure in a closed environment where you can watch without being exposed yourself to see how short term the effects are. Plus people are able to move out of the way of the small cloud of gas as they see it coming if they change their mind.

I urge you to consider placing a restriction on said tool instead of a ban. Make it so it can only be used in cases where major property damage is occurring or when a persons safety is at risk and with fair warning for all. Removing this tool will make it harder for police and private citizens to protect their property from rioters, which will ultimately result in everyone to be at an elevated risk of serious physical injury or death. By removing this type of tool, you leave no ability for anyone to disperse a violent mob other than with brute force which puts EVERYONE at risk. A well used chemical agent like CS Gas makes everyone want to disperse and results in no substantial pain or impairment.

Regarding the use of LRAD, having been in violent and tumultuous incidents, I know they are extremely loud and chaotic. The LRAD allows the ability for law enforcement to give instructions and or warnings that might not be heard without the equipment. Again, I have been down range of an LRAD in a riot and the only thing I could hear clearly were the admonishments over the LRAD. I was unable to hear anyone talk to my left or right, or even my radio with an earpiece in due to how loud and intense everything was. Banning this piece of equipment in all circumstances will make it harder for people to hear warnings and admonishments effectively for those who are innocent and trying to stay out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

Branden