

As a citizen of Portland, I am writing to provide feedback on HB 4208 as it pertains to PPB's use of Tear Gas.

During the protests following the death of George Floyd, PPB has shown that their use of Tear Gas has been consistently unprovoked, excessive, and indiscriminate.

A clear example was the use of Tear Gas in North Portland on the night of June 30th, the same day that HB 4208 came into effect, where bystanders and citizens driving nearby in their cars were affected by Tear Gas deployed by PPB. The events of June 30th (and all other nights where Tear Gas was deployed) shows that PPB will take any opportunity to use Tear Gas on the citizens of Portland, with no regard as to who is affected.

Furthermore, PPB's continued excessive use of Tear Gas during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is spread by coughing, is reprehensible and dangerous for the entire Portland community.

Since HB 4208 has gone into effect, PPB has made it clear that by their loose definition of what constitutes a riot, they can and will declare a riot on citizens exercising their first amendment right to protest whenever they see fit, in order to justify their continued use of Tear Gas. While an imperative first step, this bill does not go far enough in protecting the first amendment rights of Portland's citizens.

It is vital to the safety of our community that the use of Tear Gas is banned entirely and that PPB is held accountable for their violent use of force that has only escalated since protests began, despite numerous lawsuits and massive condemnation from the citizens of Portland.

- Jay Barry