

To the Legislature:

It is my understanding that the "riot" exception to HB 4208 has led to police forces using tear gas to counter demonstrations, regardless of whether they are riotous or not, by simply declaring the gathering a "riot." Furthermore, even were there an actual riot, tear gas is a problematic tool to use, as it does not simply affect the rioters: It seeps into local homes and businesses, and affects people who have nothing to do with whatever activity has prompted the use of tear gas, exacerbating any respiratory illnesses those people might have.

I therefore urge the Legislature to remove the "riot exception" from HB 4208, for it has become a loophole for police abuse, and has led to the further endangerment of our citizenry's respiratory health.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey A. Hayes

725 NW 10th Avenue Apt. 411

Portland, OR 97209

jeffreyhayes27@gmail.com