

Members of the Committee,

I live in Portland. I have been exposed to tear gas many times as a non-violent protestor both recently during the Black Lives Matter protests in downtown Portland and in the past four years at rallies opposing the presence of White supremacist agitators and terrorist in my home town. The distressing personal impacts aside, my observation is that tear gas is never successful as a crowd control measure.

Use of tear gas **always escalates** crowd tension/determination  
**Cannot be targeted**, impacts non-violent/peaceful people/residents within its radius and is therefore always an **excessive use of force**.

Please also consider

Unexamined **environmental impacts** via storm water drains and local deposition  
**Banned as a weapon of war**. Have committee members researched why it was banned?

REALLY UNWISE TO USE DURING A HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS RESPIRATORY PANDEMIC

Use of tear gas is a dangerous, uncontrollable, LAZY way to do crowd management. Belies a complete lack of strategic imagination on the part of law enforcement and local leadership. And at the many rallies and protests where I have seen it deployed, the crowds were predominantly peaceful and exercising their constitutional rights. This begs the question of tear gas as an infringement of First Amendment rights.

**Please demilitarize our law enforcement completely** and enter the conversations that are reimagining public and community safety.

Thank you  
Katharine Salzmann  
Portland