

Written Testimony Regarding HB 4208

I am resident of Portland OR, a constituent of Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer and Senator Michael Dembrow.

House Bill 4208 is a great start for controlling Law Enforcement Agencies' use of tear gas, but it does not go far enough. As we have seen in the ongoing protests in support of Black Lives Matter in the wake of George Floyd's death, tear gas is by nature indiscriminate. In the last two months, thousands of people who have broken no law have been subject to tear gas, so rationalized by Law Enforcement Agencies by declaring the gatherings a riot. Therefore, the bar for declaring a riot as described in ORS 166.015 ought to be raised, or the use of tear gas further restricted or banned by some other means.

Respectfully

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