

Submitter: Lia Holland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

As a resident and homeowner in Portland who participates in protests for racial justice, I am extremely concerned by the PPB's use of force and chemical weapons against protesters. I do not think that chemical weapons are appropriate measures for nonviolent crowd control, and am particularly concerned about what appears to be a pattern of disproportionate use at events that call for police accountability and justice for violence against people of color. PPB does not appear to inflict the same volume and intensity of chemical weapons on white supremacist groups when they protest.

PPB also seems to relish inflicting chemical weapons on racial justice & police accountability protesters in ways that inflict maximum, and sometimes permanent, damage to protesters' bodies.

Further, these weapons poison our waterways and harm animal life.

I do not think that an expansion in the arsenal or permissions for PPB to use chemical weapons is appropriate. Their concerning conduct with these weapons thus far warrants a reduction and further accountability measures. I am disappointed that city leadership is considering further investments in the opposite of what is needed in this community, especially after the horrors of recent police violence that no person with a conscience can ignore.

Thank you.