

Submitter: Rose Lewis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4131

I live in Portland and the events of summer 2020 have made it particularly clear to me that there is no safe or responsible way to use tear gas. I was horrified to hear testimony from a man who had tear gas leak into his home through his air conditioner while he was bed-bound recovering from surgery. Too many of my neighbors had their homes, vehicles, parks, and even schoolyards contaminated with tear gas before our Mayor instituted a long-belated and administratively unclear ban. It is a chemical banned in international warfare. Its use in domestic policing is barbaric. Its use during a respiratory pandemic is monstrously cruel. The limits on its use passed through state legislature did not go far enough, and the idea that lawyers from my city's government are arguing to loosen these restrictions frankly sickens me. I call upon members of this committee to make a meaningful stand for public safety and oppose this bill.