

February 5, 2023

Vice Chair Kim Wallan
Oregon House Judiciary Committee

RE: public hearing for HB 2572

Dear Vice Chairperson Wallan,

I urge you to reject the amendment to HB2572 submitted by Representative Grayber on the basis of its unjustified broadening and unconstitutional definition of the purported 'crime of unlawful paramilitary activity'. I further urge you to reject the premise that HB2572 is solving a problem we face in Oregon that is not already sufficiently addressed by the U.S. Constitution, our state criminal code, and existing laws and rights related to public assemblies and peaceful protests.

Looting, property damage, and violence to others are already illegal during, or apart from public assemblies or protests in the state of Oregon. If these existing laws are not being enforced fairly, this HB2572 does not address a failure of enforcement. This HB2572 and the proposed amendment, create a constitutionally illegal chilling of the right of peaceful assembly and the rights Americans enjoy under the First and Second Amendments to our U.S. Constitution.

Respectfully,

Terry Smith
Springfield, Oregon