

I am writing as a concerned citizen and constituent, in support of HB 2928 for the regulation of use of chemical incapacitants, kinetic impact projectiles and sound devices by law enforcement agencies. Throughout the summer and continuing up until present day, law enforcement agents have been reckless and violent in their response to crowds of people gathered for the shared purpose of standing against systemic oppression. The use of these weapons which have been shown to cause severe and potentially lethal harm to citizens is immoral, unjust, and a clear example of law enforcement officers' inability to respect the citizens' right to protest or to protect and serve the people. Instead, the reckless use of these weapons by officers of the law shows a prioritization of property over people and over all forms of life that are negatively impacted by these chemical weapons. The environmental impact of these weapons has yet to be fully understood, as it seeps into rivers and groundwater, spreading to the animal life around us, though we are already well aware of the effects of these weapons on the population of downtown Portland. Not only are citizens being impacted within their own homes, apartments, and storefronts, but the unhoused population is strongly at risk of experiencing the most severe reactions and repercussions of these weapons. We must cease the use of these weapons and hold officers accountable for acting with such reckless disregard for human and non-human life.