

I oppose the passage of HB4131 out of committee. HB 2928 provided essential protections for community, and for public health. There has been a demonstrated pattern of reckless and damaging use of chemical weapons for crowd control by law enforcement agencies in this state, furthered by trends around the country. We need more protection, not less, around freedom of assembly. This is both a civil liberties issue as well as a public health issue. Chemical incapacitants, as named in the bill, have impact beyond the direct targets, as the chemicals are then in the air and later the water systems. Additionally, if we give agencies the power to use these tools in the case of a riot, while they have the ability to define a riot with little to no oversight, we essentially remove any prohibitions on this weapons. Please, for the safety and health of Oregonians, do not pass this bill.