

Submitter: Catherine Akerson Bailey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB4131

Dear House Committee on Judiciary,

I am a resident of Portland, OR, and I oppose the passage of HB4131. I believe this would remove the protections that HB 2928 provided: essential protections for community, and for public health. Use of chemical weapons for crowd control by law enforcement agencies is unsafe and harmful. This is 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 and are damaging to our health. 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 these weapons. Please, for the safety and health of Oregonians, do not pass this bill.

Thank you,  
Catherine Akerson Bailey