

Submitter: BJ Soper
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2572

Good morning, I submit testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of this bill. This bill uses the words "WITH INTENT" to justify what actions are and are not lawfully. "WITH INTENT" is completely subjective and reminds me very much of the movie, Minority Report, where people were charged and arrested for things they MIGHT do. The fact of the matter is this bill is truly a bill for the TYRANT. OF COURSE, testimony in support comes from people within the DOJ and inside government, for the government has nothing to fear but the people themselves. This bill does nothing to protect a community or a people, and outside of the anitfa riots in Portland, there has been little to nothing to warrant this type of legislation. The reasonings quoted like election intimidation are simply fear porn statements from the gun grabbing lobby. How does one intimidate a mail in ballot system? Another argument states that the "CONSTITUTION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE" paramilitary activity. I would agree completely with that statement as long as the caveat that it doesn't prohibit paramilitary activity either. What I would add to this argument is the 9th amendment. See the beauty of our Constitutions is the words written matter. They are the SOLE authority, and both give and limit the delegated duties of government. The documents are the instruction sheet for government. The governing bodies ONLY have authority to do what is WRITTEN in the documents. Now for the people, the 9th amendment makes it very clear that even though certain rights have been enumerated, that does not mean that those rights are the only rights retained by the people. Jefferson said that the duties of government were limited and defined, but the rights of the people were infinite in number.

This bill is not designed for the protection of the people, it is designed to protect the government from the people giving yet another avenue to abusive and subjective prosecution. The people have both the right and the duty to protect themselves from all threats, both foreign and domestic. The historical misclassification of the militia by others here in testimony boast to the fact that when we forget our history, we are bound to repeat the same mistakes again and again. The Militia has been the cornerstone to community security even before the founders fought in the revolution. Committees of Safety were made up of everyday citizens, some armed with firearms and others with farm tools. They were tasked with defending their homes and neighbors again from both threats, foreign and domestic. To predetermine and make it a felony for people to come together to plan and train for common defense, like I said above, is the tool of a tyrant. A more recent example would be the Korean Community that defended their property during the LA riots. Under this proposed law, their actions would have been felonious in nature.

To conclude, I remind this committee of Article 1 Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution. I would also remind each of you that the reason it was drafted and made the very first statement for our newly formed state was for days like today when government forgets why it exists and how to properly do its job:

Section 1. Natural rights inherent in people. We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right: that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.—