

Submitter: Kenneth Harker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2851

We are currently experiencing an epidemic of police violence and must respond by reducing their power and authority, not expanding it. Expanding the powers of a bill that should be repealed is unacceptable. And with a twist irony that is borderline emotionally abusive, the expanded powers would enable law enforcement officers to further terrorize peaceful protesters in the name of combatting terrorism. Proximity to critical infrastructure is not an excuse for law enforcement to escalate the situation. Rather than labelling political dissidents as terrorists (which implies an increased measured response and a lack of negotiation - closing the door on de-escalation), they should be met with de-escalation and a political response. Labelling political dissidents as combatant enemies has a tendency to increase general political dissent (sometimes called a drop in approval rating), creating more political dissidents where there were none before. Is it the goal of the House to increase the number of terrorists in Oregon by both expanding the definition and escalating political conflict? Does the House have any interest in increasing approval rating by de-escalating political dissent? Or will you pander to law enforcement agencies that want to escalate political dissent to terrorism?