

Submitter: Matthew Haberman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2851

This is dangerous and foolish, especially when fascist politicians like Trump are weaponizing the language of "terrorism" to punish and stifle protest and free speech. During this time when the language of terrorism is being used to destroy American democracy, Oregon should be rolling back and not expanding so-called terrorism laws. These laws are ripe for abuse and unnecessary because we already have criminal laws that sanction harm to property. Our state should be a national model in protecting democracy, speech, and protest.

Federal, state, and local governments have a well-documented, very-long history of invoking terrorism and related laws to surveil and target Black and brown communities and silence those who engage in political dissent – including racial and environmental justice activists. This week, Trump also threatened to expand domestic terrorism laws by considering vandalism against Tesla as terrorism. Why are Oregon lawmakers considering anti-democracy frames being weaponized by Trump?

In these dangerous times, I implore Oregon state lawmakers to stop using the terrorism framework that has been consistently weaponized against our democracy.