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Senate District 4
Oregon State Legislature

PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Judiciary Chair Floyd Prozanski Requests Chad Wolf Testify on Federal Action in Portland

SALEM – For weeks, federal law enforcement has unconstitutionally occupied Portland, Oregon, claiming their purpose is to protect federal buildings and personnel. Today, Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced a phased departure of federal forces from Portland. Given remarks by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chad Wolf, that DHS, “will continue to re-evaluate [its] security posture in Portland,” and due to unconstitutional tactics and the escalation of violence federal forces have caused in Portland, Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), who chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary and is a member of the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing & Use of Force Reform, sent a letter to Acting Secretary Wolf. The text of the letter is posted below, and the full document is attached.

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The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf,

As an Oregon State Senator and chair of the Oregon Legislature’s Senate Committee on Judiciary, I have watched with increasing alarm how federal agents under your command have recklessly violated the constitutional rights of Oregon citizens who have lawfully assembled around the federal courthouse in Portland to protest police brutality and support the Black Lives Matter movement.

The irony of your agents showing lack of restraint by tear-gassing and beating peaceful citizens who are protesting the lack of police restraint has not gone unnoticed. Instead of calming the protests, the presence and

unconstitutional actions of your agents (who obviously have not been effectively trained in crowd control) have naturally caused the protests to grow larger and more aggressive.

I urge you to immediately remove your agents as requested by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, and many other Oregon officials.

I also invite you to explain your position and the actions of your agents in front of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform. Oregonians deserve to hear you account for your agents' unconstitutional violation of citizens' rights to peacefully assemble and protest.

Specifically, detaining and moving peaceful protesters not on federal property without probable cause or their consent; hitting non-violent protesters with batons and spraying them with chemicals when they pose no threat to your agents; the indiscriminate deployment of tear gas on other lawfully assembled and peaceful demonstrators who are protesting your federal occupancy of Portland streets; and shooting a peaceful protester in the face who had his hands above his head holding a radio!

I know the co-chairs of the joint committee would be happy to accommodate your schedule for a virtual hearing online. Please contact me as soon as possible so I can help in scheduling your appearance.

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Prozanski', written in a cursive style.

Floyd Prozanski