

Date: 7.22.20

To: Elected Officials of Washington 23rd LD Senator Maria Cantwell; Senator Patty Murray; Representative Derek Kilmer; State Senator Christine Rolfes; State Representative Drew Hansen; State Representative Sherry Appleton

From: the 23rd LD Democratic Membership, PCOs and Committee Chairs

The weeks-long protests in Portland OR, stemming from calls to end police brutality and racial injustice, have grabbed the attention of President Trump. Armed federal agents wearing military-style uniforms and riot gear devoid of identifying agency markings were dispatched to Portland Oregon by the current administration. Armed Federal agents using unmarked vehicles drove around downtown Portland, detained protesters and placed them into the officers' unmarked vehicles without cause or warrants.

Sending in federal troops to Portland has led to more chaos, deeper political divisions and concerns that Trump is eroding norms of democracy. The White House is planning to send "hundreds" of federal law enforcement officers to Chicago, Albuquerque, and Kansas City MO and other cities.

There are valid concerns among many Americans, including members of the 23rd LD Democrats, who fear Trump's response to the civil unrest too closely resembles an authoritarian crackdown using the military.

Arresting citizens who are peacefully practicing their 1st Amendment Rights without cause or a warrant is a denial of our basic freedoms. Another, and possibly more concerning, infringement of our Constitutional rights is that the police powers belong to the states and not to the federal government.

We, as your constituents, implore you to represent us and make our voice heard in every way possible. We request public words of protest. We request immediate actions. We request denial of any of our tax monies spent to support these unconstitutional transgressions.