



February 12, 2023

Chairman Jeff Golden
Committee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: OPPOSE OR SB 812

Dear Chairman Golden and Committee:

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is writing in opposition to Senate Bill 812, relating to the take-off and landing of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from park property. AMA is a nationwide, FAA-recognized Community-Based Organization of 180,000 model aviation enthusiasts, with nearly 4,000 members living in Oregon. For more than 85 years, AMA has successfully managed the recreational UAS community by providing robust safety guidelines and training programs. All AMA members follow this strict safety program and have the benefit of a \$2.5 million liability insurance policy that comes with membership. AMA members know where and how to fly responsibly and have a strong safety record.

In an attempt to protect and preserve Oregon's wildlife, SB 812 gives local governments the impression that centralized and known UAS flying sites are part of a problem to local wildlife, rather than a solution. Perhaps a better legislative solution to protect and preserve our wildlife and natural resources would be to encourage local governments and parks departments to identify locations within Oregon parks where areas could be designated flying sites. These designated sites create manageable and known locations, greatly reducing the number of unknown UAS operations throughout the state.

In addition, creating a technology specific piece of legislation creates a negative perception about UAS and model aviation in general. Model aviation is more than a hobby, it's an effective tool for inspiring young people to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics that are becoming increasingly vital to our future. In fact, without drone technology, we would find ourselves without an effective tool that assists with conservation efforts, not only in Oregon, but nationwide.

We share Oregon's goal to protect and preserve the state's wildlife but believe SB 812 would create a problem, rather than provide a solution. For those of us concerned with environmental preservation, there are much greater threats than the relatively benign use of park property by model aviators. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Dobbs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler Dobbs
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Academy of Model Aeronautics
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