

Dear Chairman Golden and Committee:

I am a lifelong Oregon Resident of Oregon and am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 812, relating to the take-off and landing of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from "park" property. I am a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. The AMA is a nationwide, FAA-recognized Community-Based Organization of 180,000+ model aviation professionals, hobbyists, and 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. Each flyer and aircraft is registered with the FAA. There are hundreds of designated flying sites in Oregon that members enjoy safely without incident. An important fact to recognize is that while the FAA considers all radio controlled aircraft as "Drones or UAS" there is a wide spectrum of airplanes out there from small electric powered models made from foam, large complex Gasoline powered scale and aerobatic models, Gas Turbine models, sailplanes, etc. Each type has their set of own rules and regulations. These are not used for photography as most true "drones" are but for recreational and competition use. Often UAS are used in the film industry for movies and documentaries and this bill would hamper and complicate that use.

It appears that SB 812 give 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.

I share Oregon's goal to protect and preserve the state's wildlife but believe SB 812 would create addition problems , rather than provide a solution. This bill appears to be a duplication of SB 109 from 2021 written for Oregon State Parks. For those of us concerned with environmental preservation, there are much greater threats than the benign and occasional use of park property by model aviators. Please consider my views

Respectfully please vote no, and thank you

Randy Hansen

