

Submitter: Andrea Ward

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrea Ward, and I serve as a Drone Operator and Communications Specialist with the Eugene Police Department in Oregon. I'm writing in strong support of Senate Bill 238.

Our agency operates a drone program that helps us locate missing persons, assess dangerous situations from a safe distance, and protect both the public and our officers. Unfortunately, the current state laws regarding unmanned aircraft systems often limit our ability to respond quickly or efficiently in these scenarios.

SB 238 offers common-sense updates that will modernize these outdated restrictions, while still maintaining appropriate oversight and transparency. These changes will directly improve public safety outcomes across the state.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and help ensure Oregon's public safety agencies can continue to use drone technology in responsible, life-saving ways.

Thank you for your time and consideration.