

Submitter: Tara Velarde

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

I write to you today as a citizen deeply concerned about the potential erosion of civil liberties in Oregon if SB 238 is adopted, and I urge you to vote against it.

Currently in Oregon, police need judicial approval of a warrant to use drones, except in true emergencies, and there are clear rules providing limits to those warrantless use cases. This bill would repeal those limitations and greatly expand police power to use drones, without a warrant, including in the following circumstances:

- Anytime someone calls 911
- Whenever police claim there is any risk of injury or property damage
- To surveil individuals at home if their landlord gives permission

This bill's vague language could also allow drone monitoring of peaceful protests, community gatherings, neighborhoods, and even of private property at the discretion of the police, without judicial oversight. At a time when we are all witnessing the weaponization of law enforcement activity to stop free speech and expression, we need our leaders to stand up for our civil liberties, not undermine our rights with dangerous new legislation that gives a blank check to the police to intrude upon our rights to privacy, free speech, and assembly.

Please vote no on SB 238 and protect civil liberties in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Tara Velarde
Portland, OR