



**OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**  
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

**To:** House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Sheriff Nick Hunter, Marion County Sheriff's Office  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Date:** May 7, 2025

**Re:** **SB 238 A – Testimony in Support**  
**Law Enforcement UAS Authorized Uses and Protections**

**Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan and members of the committee,**

For the record, my name is Nick Hunter. I am the Marion County Sheriff, and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association in strong support of SB 238 A.

Oregon currently has the fewest law enforcement officers per capita in the nation. That statistic alone highlights the mounting strain on public safety agencies across our state. With fewer officers to respond to more calls and more complex emergencies, we must be strategic and innovative in how we use our resources to protect our communities—and keep our officers safe in the process.

SB 238 A provides enhanced capabilities for law enforcement, utilizing a tool designed to improve safety. Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or drones, offer a rapid, real-time aerial perspective that is unmatched by traditional technologies or limited officer perspective. Whether it's locating a lost hiker, assessing a dangerous scene as officers arrive, or helping contain an evolving incident, leveraging this technology has and will continue to reduce incidents involving the application of force to achieve resolution - UAS improves scene assessment, containment, contact, and outcomes, most importantly saving lives. It allows law enforcement to more effectively de-escalate, to respond faster, reducing risk to the public and officers.

The measure also authorizes law enforcement to utilize drone technology to provide critical support to fire agencies during wildfires and to emergency medical personnel during medical incidents by offering rapid, real-time situational awareness. In medical emergencies, drones can quickly survey hard-to-reach or hazardous areas, locate injured individuals, and relay precise coordinates and visuals to guide first responders directly to the scene.

Just as importantly, SB 238 A ensures that while we harness these benefits, we do so with transparency and respect for civil liberties. The bill places clear limits on when and how UAS can be used—requiring warrants in most circumstances, prohibiting traffic enforcement and random surveillance, and ensuring drones are not used to collect personal information about individuals' beliefs or affiliations.

It is a thoughtful approach that gives law enforcement critical tools—without compromising Oregonians' rights.

SB 238 A is about safety, accountability, and responsible innovation. I respectfully urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration.