

Submitter:	Peter Morris
On Behalf Of:	self
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB238

SB 238 Testimony of Peter Morris

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the Committee:

I am Peter Morris, a resident of Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and voice my opposition to SB 238 as proposed.

Please reject the bill. The bill fails to protect citizens from warrantless drone searches. It provides a vague and overbroad authorization for law enforcement to use drones, without warrants, for “lawful police activity”--a phrase that is NOT defined.

Current law already allows law enforcement to use drones without a warrant in several situations including search and rescue operations, investigating crime/accident scenes, with the consent of a private property owner, or for “exigent circumstances”.

There is no clear legitimate law enforcement use that requires the addition of the broad new categories of: “any call for law enforcement services” or “a public safety emergency in which personal injury or damage to property could occur”.

The expanded, warrantless use of drones envisioned by SB 238 threatens privacy, civil liberties, and community trust. It does so without clear public safety justifications, adequate legislative oversight, or protections against abuse. Respectfully, I urge this Committee to reject SB 238A.

Thank you