



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Chief Mike Krantz, Bend Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: May 7, 2025

Re: SB 238 A - Testimony in Support
Responsible Law Enforcement Drone Use and Protections

Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Mike Krantz, and I serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Bend. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to testify in support of Senate Bill 238 A.

As many of you know, Oregon currently has the lowest number of law enforcement officers per 1,000 residents in the United States. That reality places an increasing strain on public safety agencies, especially as our communities grow and the complexity of incidents rises. In Bend and across Oregon, we are constantly challenged to do more with less—while still meeting the expectations of safety, transparency, and professionalism our communities deserve.

SB 238 A provides a careful and responsible framework for the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems—commonly referred to as drones—under specific, well-defined conditions. While drones will never replace the essential work of law enforcement officers, they serve as a powerful force multiplier and an important safety tool. When deployed appropriately, drones allow officers to rapidly evaluate hazardous or dynamic situations, assist in locating missing individuals, support firefighting operations, and help guide emergency responders to those in need—without placing additional lives in harm's way.

This legislation strikes an important and deliberate balance. It authorizes strategic use of UAS, while including strong safeguards to ensure accountability and protect public privacy. The bill makes it clear: drones are not to be used for general surveillance or non-law enforcement activities. It is about targeted use in critical moments, not broad or unchecked monitoring. These limits are essential, and they are thoughtfully built into the framework of this bill.

By supporting SB 238 A, you are not only investing in smarter public safety tools—you are upholding the trust of the public by ensuring that these tools are used responsibly, transparently, and with respect for civil liberties.

I urge your support and thank you for your commitment to both innovation and accountability in public safety.