

Submitter: Rowan Gibson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

I am writing to you today out of deep concern. I strongly oppose SB 238A, which would significantly broaden the use of drones by law enforcement throughout Oregon.

I am fearful of an expansion that would enable law enforcement to surveil me further and potentially disclose my private data to federal authorities.

I am terrified because this bill would allow law enforcement to use these drones without any input from the courts if there is "probable cause." We are watching right now as the Trump Administration usurps the checks and balances of the judiciary, surveilling and detaining people without due process and ignoring court orders to release them.

It is incredibly concerning that in the face of such trespasses against our civil liberties, the Oregon state legislature would opt to expand these powers and further erode these checks and balances. The bill lists possible uses but offers no concrete limitations on law enforcement's use of drones. SB 238A would enable police throughout Oregon to further invade the privacy of its residents and suppress our intrinsic human right to dissent.

We have seen this happen before: granting unchecked surveillance powers to police and sheriffs will only exacerbate the over-policing, mass incarceration, and the killing of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. SB 238A could exacerbate the detention and deportation of migrants with even thinner protections from our court system than before.

My state legislators should be protecting me from assaults on my civil rights, not further cementing the Trump Administration's horrifying precedent. I will not vote for a legislator that normalizes such precedents. For the reasons listed above, I strongly urge this committee to oppose SB 238A and to protect my rights.