

May 7, 2025

TO: House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Lindsey Rohlfs

SUBJECT: Opposition for SB 238A

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

While I understand that drone observation can be helpful in keeping law enforcement officers prepared for what kind of a situation they will be entering, it will come at massive cost as far as endangering the community goes. It has been shown time and time again that police violence disproportionately affects communities of color, and that surveillance is already concentrated more on these communities than others. This drone bill would allow the expansion of prejudicial and discriminatory behavior by the police force, which have again and again fallen short on requests to create a more diverse, inclusive, and culturally fluent force. The modern day police force is nothing but an evolution and outgrowth of historical slave patrols used to enforce endless human rights abuses, murder, kidnapping, and violence on black communities. Adding another means of surveillance will undoubtedly negatively impact the safety and comfortability of communities of color and further fuel racial prejudice. Under the current federal administration, which seeks to strip the rights from women, queer and trans people, and BIPOC people, additional surveillance will only hurt Oregon in continuing to be a sanctuary state for these communities. I have watched the police force in Portland commit so much violence at the behest of the state and federal governments, and I find it essential for my own and my community's wellbeing that police are not allowed to use drone surveillance in whatever situation they deem necessary.

Thank you for your time.