

Submitter:

Judith Lienhard

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB238

This bill provides a blank check for law enforcement agencies to begin deploying unlimited quantities of drones, without a court warrant, in a wide variety of situations. Most concerning, these bills allow police and sheriffs — not the courts — to make decisions about the use of these drones. That means law enforcement could use drones to monitor protests, gatherings, or everyday life in our communities with no judicial accountability.

History has made it abundantly clear: unchecked surveillance powers are often used to monitor, intimidate, and silence dissent — particularly targeting protestors, activists, and communities that are already over-policed. Also, if drone data is shared with federal authorities, it could be used by the Trump administration to identify and track the people he is increasingly targeting and harassing, including immigrants and refugees, people seeking reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare, and people speaking out against the fascism of Trump, Vance, and their billionaire cronies.

As Trump's terrifying attacks on free speech and protest grow, we need Oregon's lawmakers to ensure our state is leading the way in protecting our civil liberties, not going backwards.