

Submitter:

Therese Picado

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB238

Oregonians believe in the basic rights of privacy, freedom of speech, and protest — which are under attack across the country. The right to speak out and organize without fear of surveillance is fundamental to a healthy democracy. Oregon should be leading the way in protecting our civil liberties, not creating new laws that expand unchecked surveillance of everyday people by the government.

SB 238A would greatly expand the use of drones by law enforcement in Oregon. This bill leaves it to police and sheriffs, not the courts, to make decisions about the use of these drones. This bill goes against the fundamental structure of our democracy, which relies on the courts to check unfettered authority and potential abuses of power by law enforcement. That is why Oregonians support the Fourth Amendment, requiring police and sheriffs to go to a court to get a warrant.

At a time, when we our democracy is under siege by an authoritarian regime in the White House that does not seem interested in honoring the rule of law or free speech or basic rights and liberties of ALL citizens, I am particularly concerned for the vulnerable, our immigrant and LGBTQ+ neighbors and friends, who are being systematically targeted by this administration. We are a proud Sanctuary state that demands that our state law enforcement and workers do not cooperate with ICE and federal immigration. This measure seems to be an effort to undermine this law. Please, please do not support this measure.