

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Oppose SB 238A - Modifies provisions relating to the use of unmanned aircraft systems by law enforcement officers and agencies.

Dear House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 238A. This is a huge overreach and would allow police and sheriffs to use drones for surveillance and spying in many situations – without warrants, which means without court oversight. We are watching our rights being eroded in real time and this would allow unfettered access to violate the privacy of citizens, to spy on Oregonians without permission or oversight, and would use local police and police to further strengthen a federal hate-based agenda against immigrants and refugees, trans people, and anyone they consider an undesirable or political enemy. When you entered office you swore an oath to protect the constitution and this bill is very clearly unconstitutional.

There are many risks that this poses but one of the many harms that surveillance poses is its effect on the power dynamic between the watcher and the watched. This disparity creates the risk of a variety of dangers, such as discrimination, coercion, and the threat of selective enforcement, where critics of the government can be prosecuted or blackmailed for wrongdoing unrelated to the purpose of the surveillance.

One of the bedrocks of American democracy is the right to assembly. If this is taken away then a diverse range of movements—civil rights, anti-war protests, climate marches, among others, demonstrate the potency of gathering to champion a cause and is a protected right afforded to every citizen. When people gather peacefully, they exercise a foundational liberty. Public demonstrations promote greater accountability among lawmakers who might otherwise ignore certain grievances. That freedom also allows individuals to meet in smaller groups for club meetings or civic engagement without fear of arrest.

I urge you to oppose SB 238A. Democracy, freedom and the foundation of this country are at imminent risk of being destroyed and Oregonians must remain steadfast against authoritarian and draconian measures and stand up for the rights of every one of its citizens.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.  
Kristen Fraley